

# CLINICAL FEATURES AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF PATIENTS WITH LIMBAL STEM CELL DEFICIENCY ATTENDING CORNEAL OUTPATIENT CLINICS AT SYDNEY EYE HOSPITAL

**Purpose:** To identify patients with limbal stem cell deficiency (LSCD) attending a tertiary referral ophthalmology clinic and describe their demographic and clinical characteristics.

**Methods:** A retrospective review of the medical records of patients attending the outpatient cornea clinic between April-June 2016 at the Sydney Eye Hospital was conducted. Demographics, past ophthalmic medical history, primary diagnosis, visual acuity (VA), referrer details, and the outcome of visit were recorded. A clinical determination of LSCD was made based on documentation of conjunctivalisation of the cornea, and classified as partial or total depending on the extent of limbal involvement; features of patients with and without LSCD were compared. In patients who presented more than once, VA in logMAR at their first presentation was used for analysis. For patients for whom VA was not measured at the initial visit, a subsequent recording was used where available, or if unavailable, were excluded from the VA analysis.

**Results:** During the period, there were 1002 visits from 815 patients, including 434 (53%) males and 381 (47%) females. The mean VA of non-LSCD patients (n=769) was  $0.75 \pm \text{SD } 0.69$  logMAR, in eyes affected with partial LSCD was  $0.74 \pm \text{SD } 0.54$  logMAR, and in eyes with total LSCD was  $1.67 \pm \text{SD } 0.61$ . Patients with total LSCD had significantly worse vision than partial LSCD (p