

Timothy Olsen: epidemiology of age-related macular degeneration

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Introduction

Timothy Olsen (*Figure 1*), MD, is former chair and director of Emory Eye Center. He is a member of the Vitreoretinal Surgery & Disease service where his clinical expertise focuses on macular diseases, age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and macular surgery. Besides, he holds leadership positions in the American Ophthalmologic Society (AOS), the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) and serves as the retina chair of the Preferred Practice Patterns (PPP) of AAO.

Interview

During the Zhongshan Medical Retina and Epidemiology Symposium, I was honored to meet Dr. Olsen and invite him for a brief interview to share his expertise on AMD.

In the interview, Dr. Olsen complimented on this symposium, regarding Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center as a large eye hospital that conducts excellent education and training. When talking about AMD, he claimed that AMD was the primary cause of blindness in many countries. After comparing incidents of aging population in the USA and in China, he found out that there was a dramatic increase in AMD in the population of the individuals over age 50 and 60.

As the chairman of the retina PPP of AAO, he and his group members look at evaluable evidence and give an assessment based on the following process: (I) make judgment about the article type; (II) ranking according to methodology and grading the quality; (III) forming a panel of experts in the field to assess the evidence; (IV) a determination on whether to make a recommendation for treatment is made by the consensus of the group. Therefore, he held the idea that something with high



Figure 1 Dr. Timothy Olsen, M.D

evidence was unlikely to be changed with new study. Dr. Olsen also shared with us how to apply those evidences to current practice, that is, to take these recommendations into consideration and apply the treatment to the individuals given the certain circumstances.

Dr. Olsen said that AMD was a complicated disease with many different pathways involved. He thought that the future for AMD would be the separation of different disorders, with the aims to find out the reasons why particular individuals would suffer from AMD and to explore the best treatment to the individuals. In the end of the interview, Dr. Olsen advised young ophthalmologists to see more patients and read more. He also emphasized the importance of evaluating the quality of literature and being critical to the published articles.

For more details about this interview, readers can refer to the following video (*Figure 2*).



Figure 2 Timothy Olsen: epidemiology of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) (1).

Available online: <http://www.asvide.com/articles/1156>

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Footnote

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1. Ye A. Timothy Olsen: epidemiology of age-related macular degeneration (AMD). *Asvide* 2016;3:382. Available online: <http://www.asvide.com/articles/1156>

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