

Longitudinal changes in the disability due to glaucoma in Uzbekistan

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Background. *Glaucoma is One of the main causes of disability and blindness in the ICD – X class of Diseases of the eye and its appendage.*

Purpose. *Study of the dynamics of primary and general disability due to glaucoma among the adult population of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Tashkent city for the period from 2010 to 2019.*

Material and Methods. *A retrospective study of the data of the Medical and Social Service Agency under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan from 2010 to 2019 on the number of disabled people among the adult population diagnosed with glaucoma in the Republic of Uzbekistan and Tashkent was realized. Intensive and extensive indicators, dynamics and structure of general and primary disability were calculated, average period indicators were determined, regressive analysis was accomplished and a forecast of the development of the situation for the coming years was given.*

Results. *For the period from 2010 to 2019 years, 6842 people were recognized as disabled people in Uzbekistan for the first time in the Republic, while 58544 disabled people with this pathology were registered in the country during the study period. Of these, 57338 people (97.9±0.07%) individuals were with open-angle and closed-angle forms of glaucoma. During the study period, primary disability in glaucoma both in Uzbekistan and in Tashkent city has increased almost 2 times, the indicators of General disability are more stable, but also tend to increase.*

Conclusion. *Analysis of the level and dynamic of primary and general disability due to glaucoma among the adult population of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Tashkent city for the period from 2010 to 2019 years showed a significant increase.*

Key words:

primary and general disability,
adult population, glaucoma,
Republic of Uzbekistan, Tashkent

Introduction. The creation of a high-quality health-care system in the country that ensures the preservation and improvement of the health of the population, the creation of conditions for raising a healthy generation and increasing active life expectancy is a priority direction of state policy in the Republic of Uzbekistan. One of the points of this program is to improve the quality of medical care for the population. In order to successfully implement the tasks, there are a number of normative documents, including the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan PP-3894 dated August 2, 2018 «On measures to introduce an innovative model of healthcare management in the Republic of Uzbekistan», Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan PO-5590 dated December 7, 2018 «On comprehensive measures to fundamental improvement of the healthcare system of the Republic of Uzbekistan», Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PO-4063 dated December 18, 2018 «On measures to prevent non-communicable diseases, support a healthy lifestyle and increase the level of physical activity of the population» [6, 7, 8]. The Concept for the Development of the Healthcare System of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2019–2025 has been developed in accordance with the regulatory legal acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan regulating activities in the field of healthcare, as well as international treaties in the field of public health

within the framework of the regional policy Health–2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 [5].

One of the main indicators that clearly characterize the health of the population is the incidence and disability and their dynamics. These indicators make it possible to evaluate the effectiveness and quality of measures taken to prevent, treat and rehabilitate various pathologies [5].

At the present stage of development of society, one of the priority areas pursued by the state in the field of social policy and health care is to reduce the level of disability of the population [9, 10, 11].

When analyzing the disability of the population, the concepts of primary disability (PD) are most often used, in which a citizen is diagnosed with disability for the first time in the reporting year and general disability (GD), which characterizes the contingent of disabled people, regardless of the time they were recognized as disabled [5].

According to various authors [1, 4, 12, 13] in the age structure of disability in various pathologies, one of the leading places is occupied by the retirement age group. This problem is becoming increasingly relevant in many countries due to the global aging of the world's population [1, 2, 3]. Nationally, glaucoma affects the elderly and the Hispanic community disproportionately. The prevalence of

glaucoma is predicted to increase by 28% by 2050, partly because of the aging population. [18]. In Uzbekistan, according to the State Committee on Statistics in 2019, the proportion of people of retirement age was 10.2% of the total population, and in Tashkent their number already reaches 15.7% [3]. With current indicators of life expectancy growth and a low level of overall mortality in the country, the aging process of the population, as a result of an increase in the number and proportion of older people, will occur steadily and the population aged 60 years and over will increase by 6 million people, that is, it will reach the level of 30 – 35% by 2030 [13].

The increase in the number of elderly and senile people in modern society makes one of the priority tasks the problem of preventing age-related pathology and the health status of the elderly population [14, 15, 18], including social and medical support for the disabled, among whom the proportion of people of older age groups often occupies first ranking positions.

Close attention is paid to the health and support of the disabled in Uzbekistan. Directive documents were adopted that define the terminology, the rights of disabled people, the protection and restoration of the health of people with disabilities, the improvement of their medical and social security, in particular: the Law «On Social Protection of the Disabled», 1991; Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated March 22, 2018 No. 210 «On improving the system of statistical registration of persons with disabilities»; Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. 203 dated March 15, 2018 «On measures to introduce information and communication technologies in activities in the field of providing medical and social assistance to the elderly, persons with disabilities and other socially vulnerable segments of the population» [9, 10, 11] and so on.

One of the leading causes of disability and blindness according to the ICD class – X «Diseases of the eye and its accessory apparatus» is glaucoma. The results of multicenter epidemiological studies conducted in different countries indicate a significant increase in the incidence and disability due to glaucoma [15, 16, 17]. Open-angle glaucoma affects almost 2% of the American population greater than 40 years old, making the estimated number of Americans affected by the year 2020 to be almost 3.4 million [19]. The World Health Organization estimated that the prevalence of blindness related to all types of glaucoma was approximately 8 million people, making glaucoma the second leading cause of blindness worldwide [20]. Understanding disabilities caused by glaucoma and at which point in the disease process disabilities manifest is useful for treatment planning. This knowledge can also aid in the formulation of guidelines aimed to increase both the safety of the patient and the safety of the public [21].

To develop a system of measures aimed at the prevention of blindness, disability and medical and social rehabilitation of people with disabilities due to glaucoma, it is necessary to conduct comprehensive epidemiological and

in-depth scientific research at the regional level. All this determined the relevance of the present study.

The purpose of this study is to study the dynamics of primary and general disability due to glaucoma among the adult population of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the city of Tashkent for the period from 2010 to 2019.

Material and methods

A retrospective study of the data of the agency of the medical and social service (expertise) under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan from 2010 to 2019 was carried out. on the number of disabled people among the adult population with a diagnosis of glaucoma in the Republic of Uzbekistan and the city of Tashkent. Intensive and extensive indicators, the dynamics and structure of general and primary disability were calculated, average period indicators were determined, a regression analysis was made, and a forecast was made for the development of the situation for the coming years. Comparison of the mean values of the indicators was carried out using the Student's t-test (t) with subsequent assessment of the degree of probability of differences (p). Statistical data processing was carried out using the STATISTICA 10 package.

Results and discussion

For the period of 2010 – 2019 in Uzbekistan, among 6842 people firstly recognized as disabled for glaucoma and its consequences, every thirtieth of them (244) lived in Tashkent. In total, during the study period, 58,544 disabled people with this pathology were registered in the country. Of these, 57,338 people (97.9±0.07%) were persons with open-angle and closed-angle forms of glaucoma.

The average period indicator of general disability (GD) in Uzbekistan was 2.86±0.04 per 10,000 people over 19 years old, in Tashkent it was 1.3 times higher – 3.63±0.15 (Figure 1.). With primary disability (PD), the opposite picture was observed, for example, in Uzbekistan, PD was 0.33±0.01, which is 2.4 times higher than the data for Tashkent city 0.14±0.03 per 10,000 adults (p ≤ 0.05).

The dynamics of GD in Uzbekistan over the past period tended to increase (Fig. 1) from 2.86±0.04 in 2010 to 3.27±0.04 per 10,000 adults in 2019, i.e. the indicator increased by 14.3%. In Tashkent, this growth is less noticeable due to a slight decrease in the indicator in the period from 2015 – 2019, however, considering the regression analysis data, one can note the prospect of growth in the indicator for the city in relation to the initial level of 2010.

The indicators of PD in Tashkent increased annually (Fig. 2). During the study period, the highest rate of increase in the PD indicator was observed in 2016, when it amounted to 40% compared to the level of the indicator in 2015. In total, the PD indicator for glaucoma in the city increased by 1.9 times from 0.11±0.03 in 2010 to 0.21±0.03 per 10,000 adults in 2019. Over the same decade, the PD in Uzbekistan also doubled from 0.27±0.01 to 0.53±0.02 (p ≤ 0.05).

Such an increase in indicators is most likely associated with an increase in the average life expectancy of the coun-

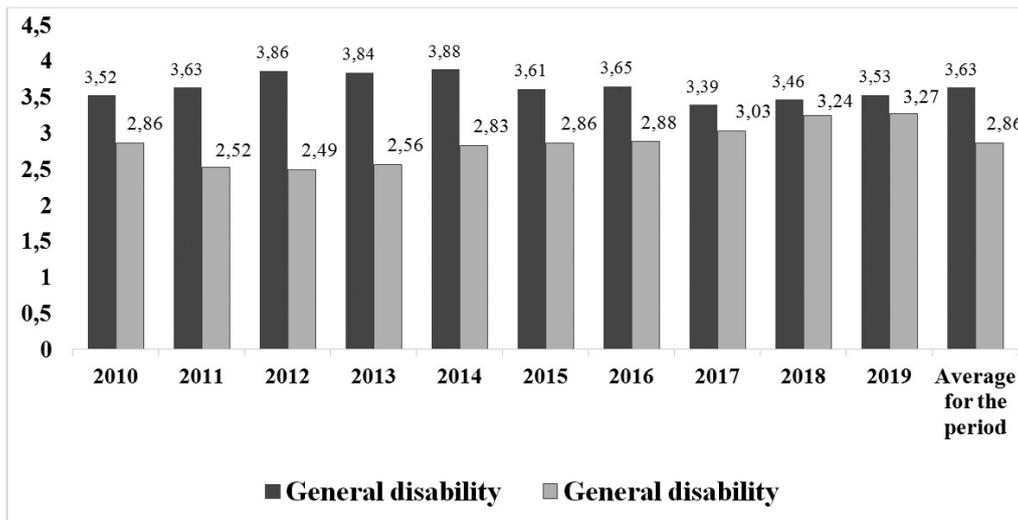


Fig. 1. Dynamics of general disability with glaucoma in Tashkent and the Republic of Uzbekistan for the period from 2010 to 2019 (per 10,000 population)

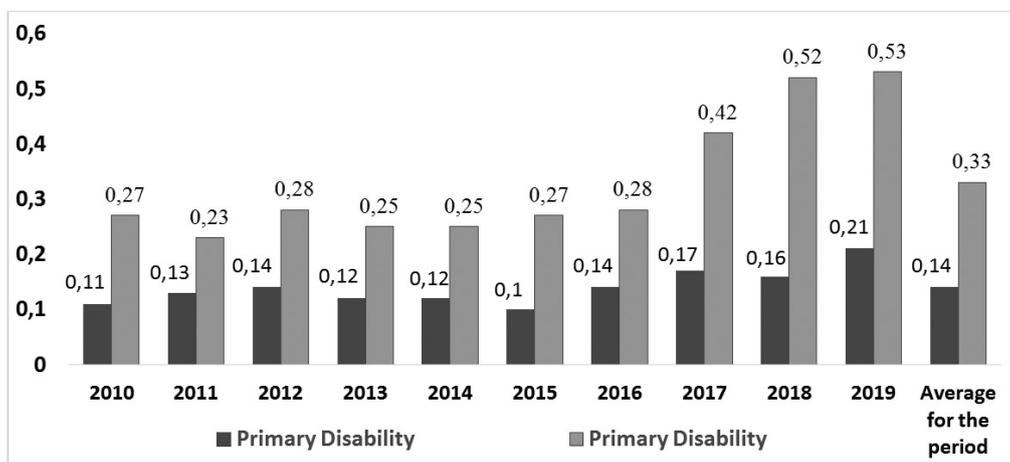


Fig. 2. Dynamics of primary disability with glaucoma in Tashkent and the Republic of Uzbekistan for the period from 2010 to 2019 (per 10,000 population).

try's population and an increase in the number of people of pre-retirement and retirement age in its structure, as well as a higher rate of accessibility of the population to ophthalmologists and, accordingly, the detection of pathology.

The application of the linear regression equation made it possible to calculate the dynamics of the increase in GD and PD in glaucoma among the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the city of Tashkent for the period up to 2029. While maintaining all other components of the process unchanged, an increase in GD per 10,000 adults is expected in the near future (Table 1). 1) in Uzbekistan by 2.3 times, and in Tashkent by 1.9 times; PD will increase by 4.1 and 3.5 times, respectively ($p \leq 0.05$). This circumstance requires immediate measures for the prevention, early detection and improvement of the quality of medical care for patients with glaucoma.

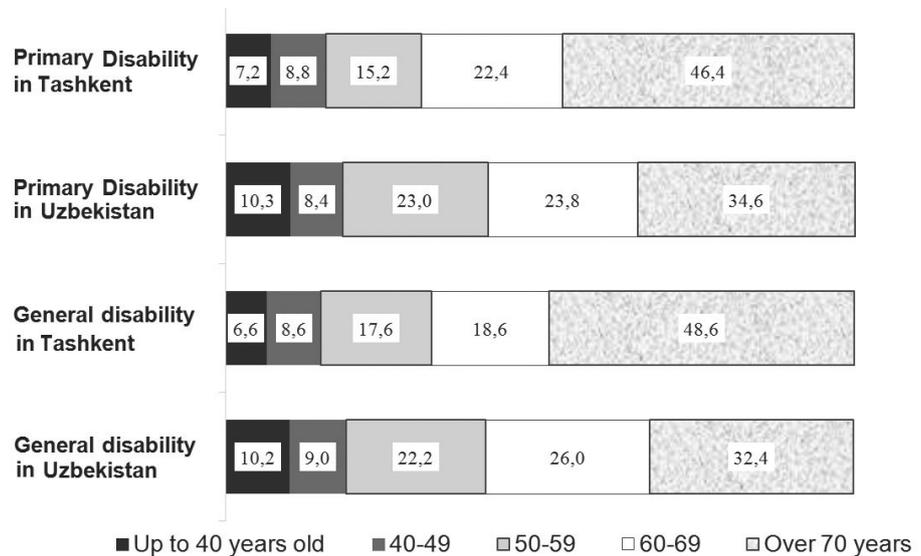
The average age of people with glaucoma for the study decade for GD was 54.8 ± 2.6 years in Uzbekistan and 62.5 ± 14.9 years in Tashkent. With PD in Uzbekistan

60.5 ± 9.5 years and in Tashkent 62.5 ± 18.5 years. Thus, the average age of disabled people in Tashkent is slightly higher than in Uzbekistan as a whole, perhaps this is due to differences in the age and national structure of the population, climatic and geographical features in different regions of the Republic (air temperature in summer, low humidity, high dustiness, etc.). as well as the fact that preventive work of ophthalmologists is better developed in Tashkent due to greater accessibility for the population both in primary and higher health care, which ultimately slightly increases the age of disability for glaucoma in the capital of the republic.

Among all those recognized as disabled for ten years from 2010 to 2019 for glaucoma (Fig. 3), people over 70 years old made up the main age group (from 32.4 to 48.6%), the second ranking place was occupied by a group of people 60–69 years (from 18.6 to 26.0%), in the third 50–59 years (15.2 to 23%).

Table 1. Forecast of the dynamics of general and primary disability in glaucoma in Tashkent and Uzbekistan for the period from 2010 to 2029 (per 10,000 population)

Disability rates per 10,000 adults	The Republic of Uzbekistan		Increasing disability rates	Tashkent		Increasing disability rates
	2010	2029		2010	2029	
General disability	2.86 ±0.04	6.50 ±0.05	2.27 times	3.52 ±0.15	6.50 ±0.16	at 1.85 times
Primary Disability	0.27 ±0.01	1.10 ±0.02	4.07 times	0.11 ±0.03	0.38 ±0.12	at 3.45 times

**Fig. 3.** The structure of general and primary disability with glaucoma in Tashkent and the Republic of Uzbekistan by age for the period from 2010 to 2019

Considering the structure of disability in glaucoma by gender (Fig. 4), it can be noted that men predominated among the disabled. These data also correspond to the works of other authors A.E. Babushkin (2011), M.M. Bikbov. (2018) and others [2, 6, 7, 12].

This trend was observed both in the structure of annual disability and in general for the period from 2010 to 2019, while in Uzbekistan in the group the general disability of men was 63.4±0.2 %, and in Tashkent 60.5±0.62 %. With PD, an almost similar distribution was observed: in Uzbekistan, 64.2±0.58 %, and in Tashkent, 51.5±3.2 % in the group of people recognized as disabled for the first time were men. In all cases, differences in the structure of disabled people by sex between the proportion of male and female groups are significant ($p \leq 0.05$).

Among all registered for 10 years 57338 disabled people in Uzbekistan with open-angle and closed-angle forms of glaucoma, persons with open-angle form 59.9±0.2 % prevailed in the following stages of the development of the process: I – 0.3±0.02 %; II – 2.8±0.07 %; III – 19.4±0.17 %; IV – 37.4±0.2 %. There were significantly less than 40.1±0.2 % of disabled people with closed-angle form in Uzbekistan, in the following stages of the development of the process: I – 0.1±0.01 %; II – 0.9±0.04 %; III – 16.7±0.16 %; IV – 22.4±0.17 % ($p \leq 0.05$). Thus, in both closed-angle and open-angle forms, persons with more severe degrees of disease development prevailed.

In Tashkent, among all disabled people with glaucoma, on the contrary, persons with closed-angle form prevailed 61.7±0.62 % versus 38.2±0.62 % of persons with open-angle form ($p \leq 0.05$). However, here too, persons in stages III and IV of the process predominated (Table 2), while there were no patients with stages I and II at all.

Among newly identified disabled people in Uzbekistan, a similar picture was observed. Persons with an open-angle form accounted for 55.0±0.62 %, and with a closed-angle form 45.0±0.62 %, in both cases, patients with stages III and IV of the process predominated ($p \leq 0.05$).

In Tashkent, on the contrary, among those recognized as disabled for the first time, there were more persons with closed-angle form 65.2±3.05 % ($p \leq 0.05$), of which patients in stage III amounted to 21.3±2.62 %, and in IV – 43.9±3.18 %. There were no patients in the state of I and II stages. In the open-angle form, patients were detected exclusively in stages III, 14.3±2.24 %, and in stages IV, 20.5±2.58 %.

Thus, the analysis of the described situation on the disability of people with glaucoma in the Republic of Uzbekistan and the city of Tashkent for the period from 2010 to 2019 indicates the need for a more detailed study of the nature of morbidity and disability in this pathology in order to prepare and implement measures to improve the system of medical care for patients with glaucoma, their early detection, dispensary observation, timely treatment, which will reduce the level of blindness and disability from glaucoma.

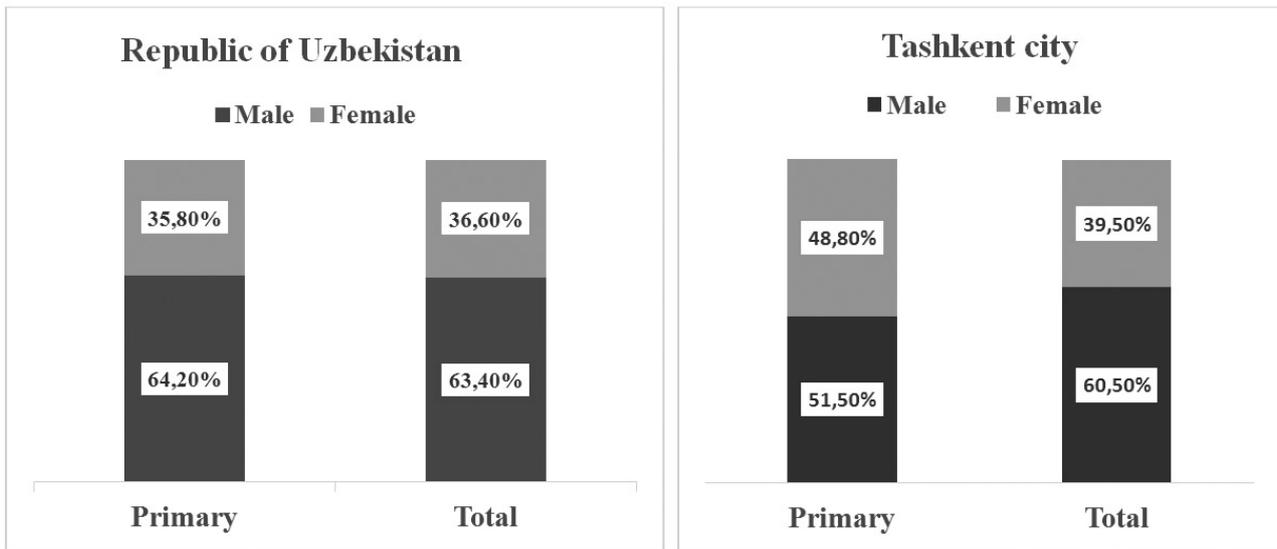


Fig. 4. The structure of disability in glaucoma by gender in Tashkent and R. Uzbekistan for the period from 2010 to 2019 (in % of the total number of persons recognized as disabled in the group).

Table 2. Distribution of general and primary disability with glaucoma in Tashkent and Uzbekistan for the period from 2010 to 2029 by forms and stages (per 100 identified disabled people)

Region Number of people with disabilities	General disability								Total (%)
	angle shape				closed angle				
	Stages per 100 registered disabled (%)								
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	
Uzbekistan n= 57338	0.3 ±0.02	2.8 ±0.07	19.4 ±0.02	37.4 ±0.17	0.1 ±0.01	0.9 ±0.04	16.7 ±0.16	22.4 ±0.17	100.0
Tashkent n= 6216	0	0	16.4 ±0.47	21.8 ±0.52	0	0	24.5 ±0.55	37.2 ±0.61	100.0
Region Number of people with disabilities	Primary Disability								Total (%)
	angle shape				closed angle				
	Stages per 100 registered disabled (%)								
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	
Uzbekistan n= 6452	0.3 ±0.07	2.5 ±0.19	17.3 ±0.47	34.9 ±0.59	0.2 ±0.06	1.1 ±0.13	18.6 ±0.48	25.1 ±0.54	100.0
Tashkent n= 244	0	0	14.3 ±2.24	20.5 ±2.58	0	0	21.3 ±2.62	43.9 ±3.18	100.0

Conclusion

1. For the period 2010 to 2019 primary disability due to glaucoma both in Uzbekistan and in Tashkent has increased almost 2 times. General disability indicators are more stable, but also tend to increase.

2. While maintaining all other components of the process unchanged until 2029, an increase in total disability per 10,000 adults is expected in Uzbekistan by 2.3 times, and in Tashkent by 4.1 times; primary disability will increase by 1.9 and 3.5 times, respectively.

3. Among all those recognized as disabled for ten years from 2010 to 2019 for glaucoma, people over 70 years old made up the main age group in both primary and general disability (from 32.4 to 48.6%)

4. Among those recognized as disabled in all studied groups, men predominated.

5. Among the disabled identified over 10 years in Uzbekistan, persons with open-angle glaucoma prevailed 59.9±0.2 %, in Tashkent persons with closed-angle form 61.7±0.62 % prevailed, the vast majority of disabled persons were persons in III and IV stages of glaucoma.

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