

 ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Patients referred with type 2 diabetes remain in specialist care for a long period

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INTRODUCTION

Patients with uncomplicated type 2 diabetes are usually managed in general practice. The aim of this study was to describe the duration of contact for patients referred from primary care to a diabetes outpatient clinic.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present study is a retrospective study with follow-up of at least 12 months or until discharged. Risk stratification was performed at referral and when patients were returned to primary care. A total of 154 patients with type 2 diabetes were referred to the clinic in the 2004-2009 period. The main outcome measure was the duration of contact with the diabetes clinic.

RESULTS

In all, 105 patients were returned to primary care after a median of ten months (range 1-64 months) and six visits (1-25 visits). Half of the patients were returned to primary care after 18 months, and 20% were still in contact with the diabetes clinic after six years. The majority were classified as high-risk patients with no difference in risk level between patients followed ≤ 12 or > 12 months.

CONCLUSION

The complication level was high even among discharged patients. The long duration of the contact for the patients who were returned to primary health care should stimulate initiatives leading to a faster course in the secondary care setting.

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TRIAL REGISTRATION

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 ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Unemployment under the flex job scheme increases the risk of permanent social security benefits

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INTRODUCTION

In Denmark, a flex job scheme was introduced in 1998 in the expectation that more people could remain in the workforce despite a reduced working capacity. The aim of this study was to characterise the group that did not obtain a flex job after having been included in the flex job scheme.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Persons included in the flex job scheme from 1 January 2001 to 30 March 2008 were identified via the Ministry of Employment's DREAM register. Data were linked to Statistics Denmark and The Danish National Patient Registry. Among the individuals who did not obtain employment in a flex job within the first three months, we identified those who did not obtain employment before they were transferred to disability pension or flex benefit.

RESULTS

A total of 74,277 persons were included in the flex job scheme. Among these persons 33% received unemployment benefit for more than three months and the rest obtained a flex job within the first three months. Overall, 23% of the unemployment benefit recipients never entered the labour market, but were awarded early retirement pension or flex benefit. This percentage varied among different socio-demographic variables and regions.

CONCLUSION

The present study demonstrates that attention should be paid to the flex job scheme, especially for those who do not obtain employment within the first three months.

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