



# The “COVID-19” era is associated with an elevated frequency of central serous chorioretinopathy cases, a multicenter study



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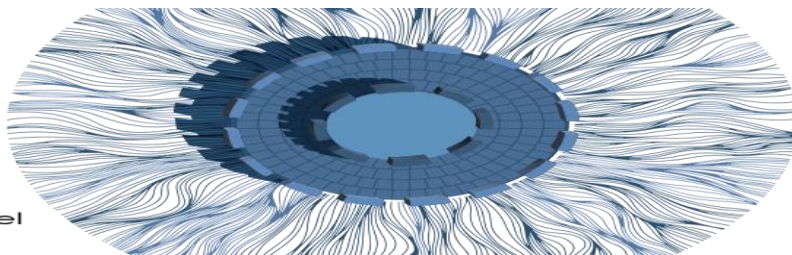
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30 Μαΐου έως  
1 Ιουνίου 2024

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## PURPOSE

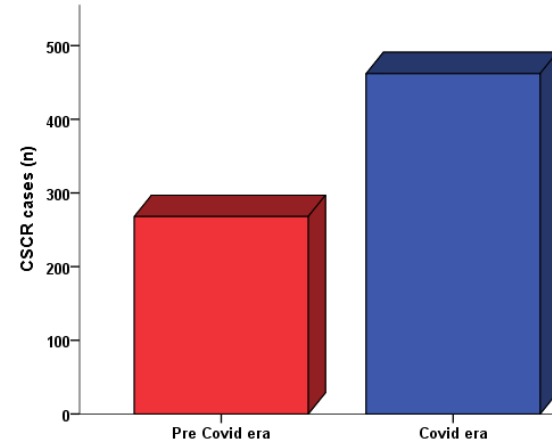
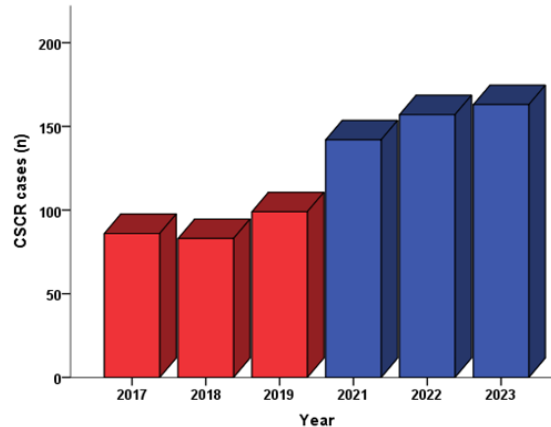
To investigate whether the **frequency** of central serous chorioretinopathy (**CSCR**) cases, either new-onset or recurrences, is associated with the psychological stress that accompanies the **COVID-19 period**.

## MATERIALS and METHODS

In our retrospective **multicenter study**, we included all the patients that presented during the period from **1 January 2017 to 31 December 2023** with either **new-onset or recurrent** episodes of **CSCR** at **5 separate ophthalmology departments** - 3 public (1st and 2nd Departments of Ophthalmology, University of Athens, Greece, and Department of Ophthalmology, University of Crete, Heraklion, Greece) and 2 private clinics (“OMMA” Eye Institute, Athens, Greece and “Ophthalmica” Eye Institute, Thessaloniki, Greece). We did not include the year “2020” because the applied “lockdown” in Greece resulted in a restricted access to the public clinics.

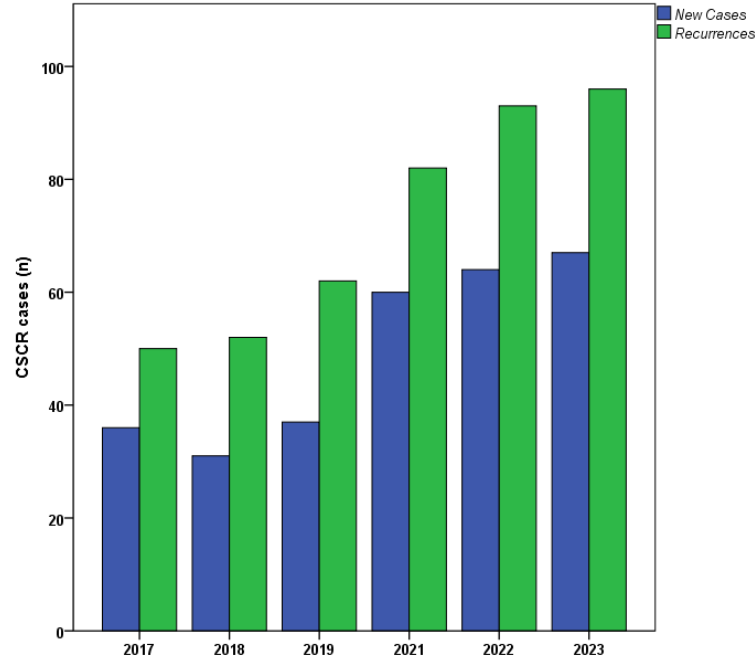
## RESULTS

In total, **730 CSCR cases** (435 new-onset and 295 recurrent) were identified during the aforementioned period. The corresponding numbers were **significantly lower during the pre- (268) compared to the COVID-19 (462) era** (chi-square=93.249,  $p<0.001$ ).



## RESULTS

The corresponding numbers were **significantly lower during the pre- (268) compared to the COVID-19 (462) era** (chi-square=93.249,  $p<0.001$ ). We also found a trend for an **elevated frequency of CSCR cases along the years** ( $\rho = 0.978$ ,  $p=0.001$ ). A similar trend was also detected regarding the new-onset ( $\rho = 0.990$ ,  $p<0.001$ ) and the recurrent ( $\rho = 0.951$ ,  $p=0.003$ ) CSCR cases.



## CONCLUSIONS

According to our study, the **frequency of CSCR is significantly elevated during the COVID-19 years**. A plausible explanation is that the **exacerbated stress levels** throughout the community the last three years are **possibly implicated in the upsurge of CSCR incidence**.