

**Table 1 Distribution of characteristics for return diabetes patients attending 3 diabetes centres in Alexandria**

Characteristic	Abu-Qir Hospital (n = 120)		Farouk Hospital (n = 120)		Ras El-Ten Hospital (n = 120)		Total (n = 360)		Statistical test	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	$\chi^2$	P
<i>Age (years)</i>									220.9	<
0.001										
≤ 40	19	15.8	12	10.0	8	6.7	39	10.8		
> 40	101	84.2	108	90.0	112	93.3	321	89.2		
Mean (SD)	49.70 (8.45)		50.03 (11.43)		55.35 (11.45)		53.36 (10.83)		10.897 <sup>a</sup>	<
0.001										
<i>Sex</i>										
Male	66	35.1	64	34.0	58	48.3	188	52.2	1.157	0.056
Female	54	31.4	56	32.6	62	51.7	172	41.8		
<i>Employment</i>										
Unemployed	93	77.5	93	77.5	85	70.8	271	75.3	1.910	0.384
Employed	27	22.5	27	22.5	35	29.2	89	24.7		
<i>Education</i>										
Illiterate	84	70.0	80	66.7	73	60.8	237	65.8	2.297	0.317
Literate	36	30.0	40	33.3	47	39.2	123	34.2		
<i>Type of diabetes</i>									2.455	0.292
Type I	35	29.2	26	21.7	26	21.7	87	22.9		
Type II	85	70.8	94	78.3	94	78.3	273	77.1		
<i>Duration (years)</i>									0.357	0.837
≤ 5	62	32.6	66	34.7	62	32.6	190	52.8		
> 5	58	34.1	54	31.8	58	34.1	170	47.2		
Mean (SD)	1.48 (0.50)		1.45 (0.50)		1.48 (0.50)		1.48 (0.50)		0.177 <sup>a</sup>	0