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MONITORING PROGRESSION - A QUINTESSENTIAL IN GLAUCOMA MANAGEMENT

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The aim of glaucoma treatment is to slow the rate of progression of the disease so that the patient does not suffer a loss of quality of life due to loss of vision. Long-term follow up of patients with glaucoma requires determination of either stabilization or progression of visual field loss or structural damage. Even if measures of optic nerve structure show no progression, it does not guarantee that function is spared. Detection of glaucomatous visual field deficit progression remains one of the most important and challenging aspects of glaucoma management. Progression is defined as repeatable change. However, it indeed is insufficient to predict and estimate as to which patient will progress. Rate of progression therefore must be measured in each case. By measuring progression, more effective treatment decision can be made. Progression can be measured by

1. Visual fields-
 - a. Event based Analysis
 - b. Trend based analysis
2. Optical coherence tomography

Various factors responsible for early progression includes older age at the time of first glaucoma intervention, greater intraocular pressure (IOP) fluctuation, higher mean IOP and baseline damage. Thus the detection of glaucoma progression rate is the most important factor to consider in making treatment decision. It helps to predict the risk for future functional impairment and past progression rate is the best indicator for estimating future progression rate.

Biography

Baswati Prasanth, Specialist Ophthalmology has 10 years of vast experiences from various hospitals in India and other countries, completed her MS Ophthalmology from Armed Forces Medical College, Pune and Fellowship in Glaucoma and Anterior segment from Dr Shroffs Eye Hospital, New Delhi. She is the winner of A D Patwardhan Gold medal from university of Pune. She is the Head of the department of Ophthalmology, Ahalia Eye Care, Abudhabi. She has published more than 15 papers in reputed journals and has been part of several clinical trials

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