

Glaucoma risk stratification: A quality improvement project

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Introduction: The SARS-CoV-2 pandemic has compounded the existing strain on glaucoma services in the United Kingdom. The aim of this project is to classify glaucoma cases into distinct categories according to their complexity and the potential for vision loss, with the goal of enhancing the quality of care delivered.

Methods: A glaucoma risk stratification tool was used to categorise patients who were attending the glaucoma clinic at East Surrey Hospital for follow-up appointments into different risk groups, represented by the colours green (low risk), amber (moderate risk) and red (high risk).

Results: In our 240-patient cohort, the stratification resulted in a diverse distribution among three groups. Notably, 46% were Amber cases, while Green and Red cases accounted for 26% and 25%, respectively. A small fraction, just 3%, showed no signs of ocular hypertension or glaucoma and was discharged to opticians. The risk stratification tool proved to be cost-effective by optimizing resource allocation in the glaucoma service. It efficiently utilized consultant-level expertise for complex cases. Prioritizing patients by risk level reduced wait times ensured timely access to essential services, improved 'Green' case management, ensured treatment adherence and promoted continuity of patient care.

Conclusion: In conclusion, this Quality Improvement Project streamlined patient risk assessment in the glaucoma service, effectively addressing post-SARS-CoV-2 pandemic demand. It optimized resource allocation for 'Green,' 'Amber,' and 'Red' cases, ensuring efficient and high-quality care.