⌦ The measurement of retinal nerve fibre thickness is helpful in determining which patients with ocular hypertension will develop glaucoma

The Science behind the Tip

In patients with ocular hypertension, moderate to severe retinal nerve fibre layer (RNFL) atrophy at baseline has been associated with a 7-8 times greater risk of subsequent visual field loss[1]. RNFL damage can be found clinically in 60% of ocular hypertensive patients up to six years before changes are seen using perimetry.

In recent years, the RNFL has been evaluated using scanning laser polarimetry (GDx VCC) and optical coherence tomography. Both forms of technology are equally effective in detecting thinning of this layer[2]. There is a good correlation between instruments, but thickness measurements taken with one instrument are not comparable with those taken with another[3]. The best method of monitoring is obtained with the same operator and device[4].

References

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