The Science behind the Tip

Both visual field testing and optical coherence tomography (OCT) measurements can be used to detect glaucomatous progression. Use of visual field testing is limited by its subjective nature. OCT provides an objective and precise measurement of the optic nerve head, retinal nerve fibre layer (RNFL) and ganglion cell layer.

RNFL OCT is more sensitive for detecting progression in early glaucoma than subjective testing, whereas visual field testing and optic disc photography appears to be more appropriate in advanced disease. OCT is less helpful in advanced glaucoma owing to the ‘floor effect’, where the residual RNFL becomes as thin as anatomically possible.

References


Contributor: JC Sherwin MBBS(Hons) MPhil - Oxford