Ocular coherence tomography (OCT) should be used cautiously in the context of uveitic glaucoma

The Science behind the Tip

Patients with uveitis have a heightened risk of developing secondary glaucoma. Ocular Coherence Tomography (OCT) imaging is becoming a widely used technology for diagnosis and monitoring of glaucoma.

The retinal nerve fibre thickness on OCT is noted to be higher in patients with uveitic glaucoma, particularly when the uveitis is active\textsuperscript{1,2,3} and this reflects leakage at the optic nerve\textsuperscript{4}. The optic nerve rim can erroneously appear normal due to subclinical nerve fibre layer oedema. This can potentially lead to less aggressive management of intraocular pressure.

After medical therapy to treat uveitis, resolution of oedema may lead to increased optic nerve cupping and a reduction in retinal nerve fibre layer thickness. These changes could be misinterpreted as glaucoma progression if OCT parameters are not assessed in the context of other clinical findings.

References


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