



Ask your glaucoma patients about mobility rather than vision

The Science behind the Tip^{1,2,3}

Self-reported visual disability in glaucoma which correlates with level of visual field loss includes bumping into things, difficulty with stairs, tripping and problems with outdoor mobility tasks^{1,2,3,4}. However, the question 'Do you ever notice that parts of your field of vision are missing' has no relationship with the level of binocular visual field loss².

An example of why this knowledge is important for doctors, patients and policymakers is given by the International Glaucoma Society in its 'Driving and Glaucoma' information leaflet⁵: 'The gradual onset and adaption to the loss of vision means there is no awareness of these blind areas but there are potential serious consequences when driving.'

References

- 1) Mills RP, Drance SM. Esterman disability rating in severe glaucoma. *Ophthalmology*. 1986 Mar;93(3):371-8.
- 2) Viswanathan AC, McNaught AI, Poinosawmy D, Fontana L, Crabb DP, Fitzke FW, Hitchings RA. Severity and stability of glaucoma: patient perception compared with objective measurement. *Arch Ophthalmol*. 1999 Apr;117(4):450-4.
- 3) Noe G, Ferraro J, Lamoureux E, Rait J, Keeffe JE. Associations between glaucomatous visual field loss and participation in activities of daily living. *Clin Exp Ophthalmol*. 2003 Dec;31(6):482-6.
- 4) Nelson P, Aspinall P, Papasouliotis O, Worton B, O'Brien C. Quality of life in glaucoma and its relationship with visual function. *J Glaucoma*. 2003 Apr;12(2):139-50.
- 5) https://www.glaucoma-association.com/media/wysiwyg/Leaflet_PDF_Files/DAG_2017.pdf