OCT can be a helpful additional tool to differentiate glaucoma from other optic neuropathies

The Science behind the Tip

Differentiating between glaucomatous and non-glaucomatous optic neuropathies can be quite challenging. In addition to a thorough clinical history and a detailed examination, optical coherence tomography (OCT) can be very helpful. Consider the possibility of non-glaucomatous etiology if you are faced with either of the following findings: An unusual pattern: selective reduction of temporal or nasal quadrants with preserved superior and inferior quadrants or respect for the vertical meridian in the macular ganglion cell complex (GCC) thickness. Discrepancy between OCT parameters and clinical examination: thinning of macular GCC and/or circumpapillary retinal nerve fiber layer that does not correlate with the optic nerve appearance, including cup to disc ratio and the distribution of neuroretinal rim tissue.

References


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