



### When interpreting RNFL OCT scans, attention should be paid to the presence of peripapillary retinoschisis

#### ***The Science behind the Tip***

Peripapillary retinoschisis (PPRS) occurs significantly more frequently in glaucoma patients (1%-6%) compared to healthy subjects (0.5%)<sup>1</sup>. The B-scan of the OCT shows splitting of the RNFL with strut-like structures remaining in the schisis area. A reliable assessment of the RNFL thickness is not possible in such areas. The finding can persist for months to years but eventually resolves spontaneously<sup>2</sup>.

In RNFL analysis, the onset of PPRS is characterized as a sudden, localized increase in RNFL thickness that may mask a pre-existing localized thinning of the RNFL. Conversely, as a PPRS resolves, there is a sudden decrease in RNFL, which can be misinterpreted as rapid progression of glaucoma<sup>2,3</sup>.

Irrespectively, there is evidence that PPRS per se can be a sign of progression<sup>1,4</sup>. However, the exact relationship remains yet to be clarified. When interpreting an OCT RNFL scan, attention should be paid to the presence of a PPRS, and RNFL findings at respective areas should be interpreted cautiously over time.

#### ***References***

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