Do patients with glaucoma have difficulty recognising faces?

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PURPOSE: To compare face recognition performance of glaucomatous patients with age-similar visually healthy people.

Methods: Percentage of correctly identified faces in the Cambridge Face Memory Test was assessed in glaucomatous patients (n=54; mean age=69) with a range of visual field (VF) defects and visually healthy controls (n=41; mean age=67). All participants underwent cognitive and visual assessment (binocular visual acuity [BVA], contrast sensitivity [CS], and Humphrey VFs, both 10-2 and 24-2) and had BVA of at least 0.18 logMAR. Patients were classified as having 'early', 'moderate' or 'advanced' VF defects using the Hodapp, Parrish and Anderson.

METHOD: Patients were also stratified by better-eye 10-2 MD being better or worse than the 1% normative value.

Results: There were no significant differences in age (p=0.25) nor cognitive ability (p=0.31) between groups; however, differences in BVA and CS were statistically significant (p<0.01; 77 ± 11 %) and controls (75 ± 11 %). p

CONCLUSIONS: When compared to age-similar people with healthy vision, glaucomatous patients with advanced bilateral 24-2 VF loss, significant 10-2 VF loss or poor CS are more likely to experience problems with face recognition.