

Do patients with glaucoma have difficulty recognising faces?

Glen FC, Crabb DP, Smith ND, Burton R, Garway-Heath DF.

Department of Optometry and Visual Science, City University London, Northampton Square, London, EC1V 0HB, United Kingdom.

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<0.05). Glaucomatous patients (77 ± 11 %) and controls (75 ± 11 %) ; p<0.05. **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.

Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci. 2012 Apr 17.

PMID: 22511628 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22511628>