

Glaucoma: Global and Southeast Asian Perspectives

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Medical Therapy for Postiridectomy Residual Angle Closure Glaucoma



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Medical treatment with latanoprost is a practical strategy for the treatment of postiridectomy angle closure glaucoma, as shown by Wang et al in a study comparing latanoprost 0.005% and timolol 0.5% for this indication. Sixty eight patients with postiridectomy angle closure glaucoma received latanoprost once at night (study group) and timolol twice daily (control group). Intraocular pressure (IOP) was measured before treatment and 3 days, 1, 2, and 4 weeks, and 2, 3, and 6 months after treatment.

The pretreatment IOP was not significantly different between the 2 groups. However, 3 days after treatment, the IOP reduction in each group was significantly different — 25.8% reduction in the group receiving latanoprost and 17.36 reduction in the group receiving timolol ($p < 0.001$). This difference was retained with repeated measurements, with the IOP being consistently lower for patients receiving latanoprost throughout the follow-up period. At each follow-up visit, the IOP was significantly reduced from pretreatment levels for both groups.

These researchers concluded that medical treatment is effective for the

treatment of postiridectomy angle closure glaucoma, and that latanoprost is more effective than timolol for this indication.

Relationship Between Peripheral Anterior Synechiae and Visual Field Defect in Primary Angle Closure Glaucoma



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This study was performed by Kim et al to investigate the relationship between the circumferential extent of peripheral anterior synechiae (PAS) and the severity of visual field defects in primary angle closure

glaucoma (PACG). Seventy three eyes of 64 patients with PACG and visual acuity of $>20/70$ were evaluated. The visual field defects were classified as none (grade 0), minimal (grade 1), moderate (grade 2), and severe (grade 3). The extent of PAS between 0° and 360° of the angle circumference was also measured in each eye. Correlations between the 2 variables in conjunction with and without other variables were analysed in eyes with and without acute attacks.

Spearman's correlation coefficient between the severity of visual field defects and the extent of PAS was 0.348 ($p = 0.003$). Spearman's correlation coefficient between the severity of visual field defects and the extent of PAS in eyes with PACG without acute attacks was 0.377 ($p = 0.012$). In eyes with acute attacks of PACG, Spearman's correlation coefficient was 0.338 ($p = 0.079$).

These results show a statistically significant correlation between the extent of PAS and the severity of visual field damage in general for patients with PACG, and particularly for patients with no history of acute attacks. Therefore, the extent of PAS seems to reflect the severity of PACG, especially in chronic disease.



Intraocular Pressure and Visual Field Loss in Asian Glaucomas

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In this study by Gazzard et al, the relationship between visual field loss and pretreatment intraocular pressure (IOP) in primary angle closure glaucoma (PACG) and primary open angle glaucoma (POAG) were compared. Forty three patients with PACG and 31 with POAG were enrolled in a prospective randomised controlled trial of trabeculectomy and perioperative 5-fluorouracil. Visual field

testing and intraocular pressure measurements were done prior to treatment.

The correlation between pretreatment IOP and the severity of visual field loss was stronger for patients with PACG. This may be consistent with the hypothesis of a greater IOP dependence for optic nerve damage for patients with PACG than for those with POAG. Conversely, there may be a greater importance of other non-pressure dependent mechanisms in POAG compared with PACG.

Patterns of Non-compliance to Anti-glaucoma Medications

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Non-compliance to antiglaucoma medications is an important cause of visual loss in patients with glaucoma. The latest diagnostic techniques and treatment advances are of no benefit if compliance with treatment is poor. A study was performed at the Hospital Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia to determine the incidence and patterns of

non-compliance to glaucoma medications. 100 patients with glaucoma attending the glaucoma clinic at the hospital were randomly selected and interviewed using a compliance questionnaire. Three indicators of compliance were used:

- proper drug administration technique
- proper timing and spacing of medications
- frequency of missed medications.

Only 20% of the patients interviewed used their medications at the proper time and spacing, while 32% used proper administration techniques and 52% missed medications 5 or more times in a month.

There was a statistically significant association between compliance and the frequency of the medications used, although factors such as gender, age, ethnicity, and educational level had no association.

Dr Rahman concluded that the incidence of non-compliance is alarmingly high, despite education given to patients regarding the disease and its treatment at the time of diagnosis. More effort is needed to create awareness of the disease and the importance of compliance with medications to prevent glaucoma progression and blindness.



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