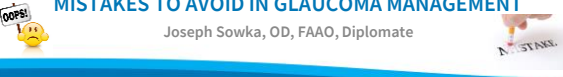



**MISTAKES TO AVOID IN GLAUCOMA MANAGEMENT**


Joseph Sowka, OD, FAAO, Diplomat

**DISCLOSURE:**

Dr. Joseph Sowka is/ has been in the past 24 months a consultant or member of the advisory or speaker boards for Zeiss, Visus, and B&L. All relevant relationships have been mitigated. Dr. Sowka has no direct financial interest in any of the diseases, products or instrumentation mentioned in this presentation.

He is a co-owner of Optometric Education Consultants.  
[www.optometricedu.com](http://www.optometricedu.com)



### MISTAKE TO AVOID

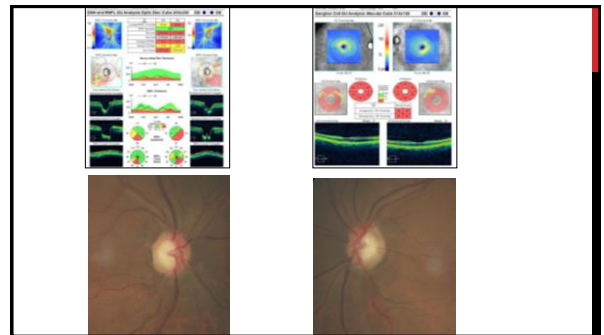
- Not recognizing a neurologic field
- Thinking glaucoma causes optic disc pallor
- Diagnosing NAAION in glaucoma patients
- Not recognizing when the OCT is wrong
- Treating red disease
- Not treating real disease
- Changing therapy based upon one bad IOP or field
- Not getting enough pre-treatment...and post-treatment IOPs
- Not recognizing patients who will likely do well
- Not identifying patients who likely will not do well.

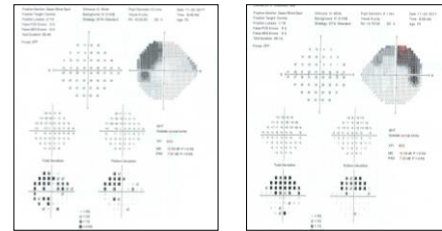
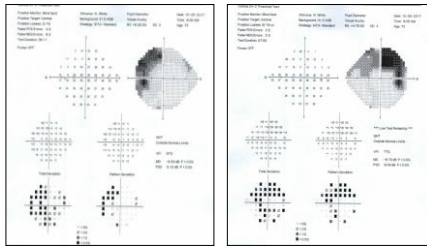
### MISTAKE TO AVOID

- Not recognizing a neurologic field

### 74 YOF

- Diagnosed with glaucoma in Jamaica
- Ran out of meds: IOP 20 mm OU
- 20/50 OD, 20/40 OS
- NS 2+
- PERRL(-)RAPD





**FINDINGS:** There is a large T1 hypointense and T2 iso- to hyperintense lesion extending between the sella into the suprasellar region showing heterogeneous enhancement on the post-contrast images measuring 2.7 cm craniocaudal x 2.1 cm AP x 2 cm transverse. Findings are compatible with a pituitary macroadenoma. It is resulting in compression of the optic chiasm and slightly compressing upon the hippocampus. There is preservation of the signal void of the cavernous carotids. There is possible extension into the cavernous sinus medially. There is slanting of the floor of the sella.

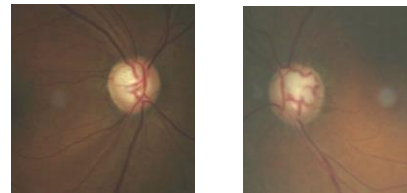
The ventricles are in midline. There are multiple bilateral periventricular and subcortical T2 hyperintensities most commonly representing chronic small vessel ischemia in this age group.

The globes are symmetric. There is no lens dislocation. The post-septal soft tissues are preserved with no definite intra- or extracanal mass. The optic nerves are symmetric at the orbital level showing no abnormal enhancement.

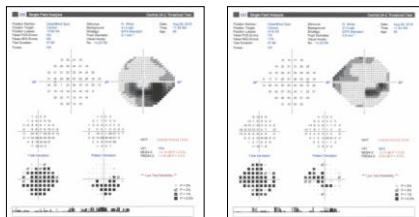
**IMPRESSION:**

1. Large heterogeneous enhancing sella/suprasellar mass resulting in compression of the optic chiasm compatible with a pituitary macroadenoma.
2. Bilateral periventricular and subcortical T2 hyperintensities compatible with chronic small vessel ischemia.

## 65 YOF- POAG OU

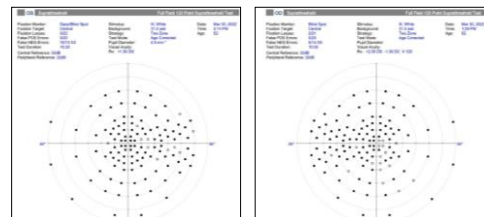


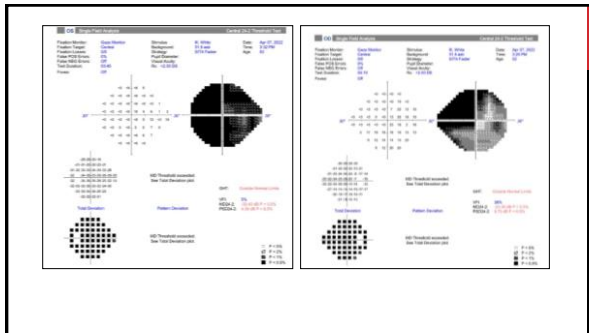
Peak IOP unknown; s/p SLT OU and on latanoprost at first visit.



Oh, by the way, she remembered waking up 10 years ago unable to speak for several hours.

## 53 YOM COMPLAINS OF BLIND LEFT SPOT WHILE DRIVING





### MISTAKE TO AVOID

- Thinking glaucoma causes optic disc pallor

### RULE

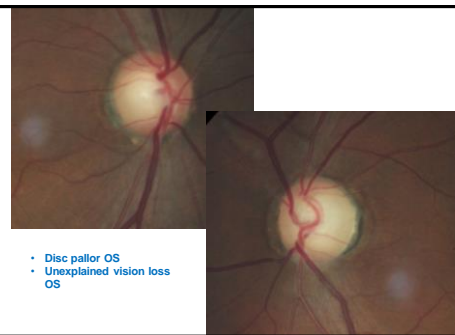
**Pallor in excess of cupping indicates something other than, or in addition to, glaucoma**

### RULE

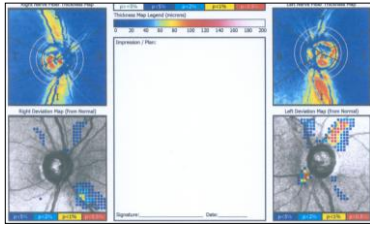
**Nothing notches a nerve like glaucoma**

### IN THE AGE OF IMAGING, DO WE REALLY NEED FIELDS?

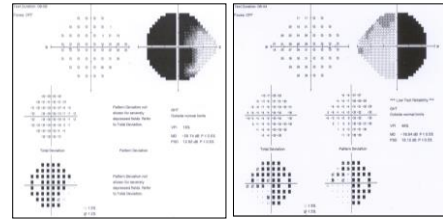
- 54 YO Nigerian man
- Referred for glaucoma management
- Told he had glaucoma 6 years earlier- no Tx
- 6/9 OD; HM OS
  - Vision loss from glaucoma- not coming back
- 30 mm Hg OD; 23 mm Hg OS
  - Lumigan- 17 mm Hg OD, 15 mm Hg OS



- Disc pallor OS
- Unexplained vision loss OS



Do we really need fields in  
this case?



Yes, we still need to do fields in the age of imaging.  
Sometimes its not glaucoma

### ODE TO A CUPPED DISC

Oh, to have a cupped disc pink.  
That my friend hath a glaucomatous stink.  
But to have a cupped disc pale,  
Call this glaucoma and you shall fail.  
Disc and field damage that is one-sided  
Simply cannot be abided.  
It might be trauma, infarct or meningioma.  
But if the rim is cut always remember,  
Nothing notches a nerve like glaucoma

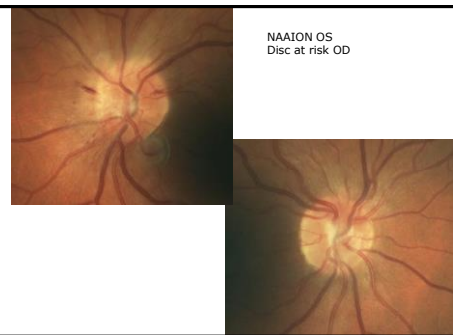
Joseph Sowka, OD

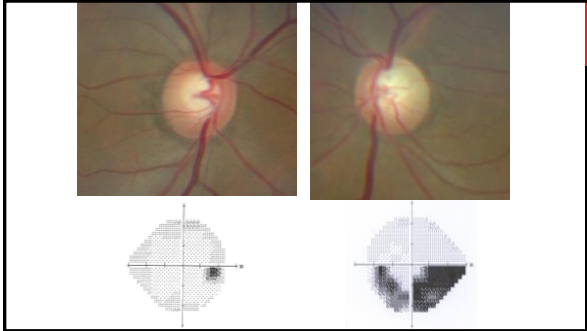
### MISTAKE TO AVOID

- Diagnosing non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy in glaucoma patients

### NAAION IS A GREAT DIAGNOSIS OF CONVENIENCE

- There is no test to conclusively diagnose it
- There is no treatment so nothing that you need to do for it
- It's a great explanation for pallor in a glaucoma patient
- But... 97% of NAAION patients have c/d of 0.2/0.2 or less.
- NAAION is a disease of non-cupping and glaucoma is a disease of *cupping*.





### MISTAKE TO AVOID

- Not recognizing when the OCT is wrong

### ISSUES IN IMAGING

- OCT is not a Silicon Valley Rumplestiltskin. You cannot put in straw and get out gold
- The use and overemphasis of imaging technology to the exclusion of additional clinical findings and assessment of risk will put patients in peril.
- Exactly how much confidence should an OCT give you as to whether or not a patient has glaucoma?
  - Depends how much confidence you had before you imaged the patient.

32

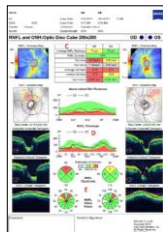
### ISSUES IN IMAGING

- Normative Database
- Signal Quality
- Blink/Saccades
- Segmentation Errors
- Media Opacities
- Axial Length

33

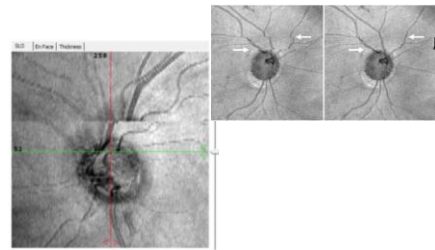
### WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN INTERPRETING OCT SCANS

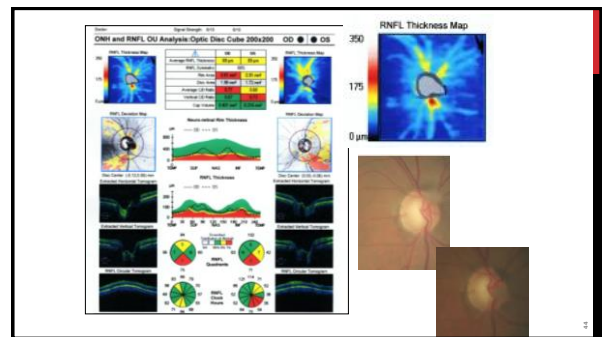
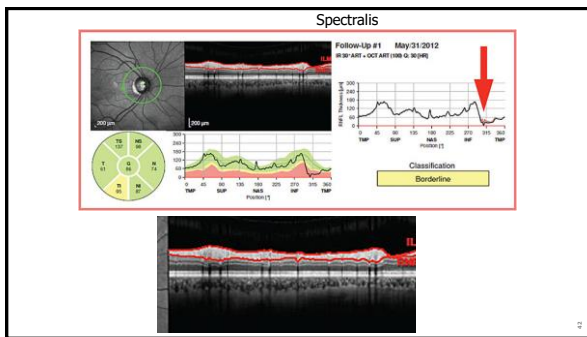
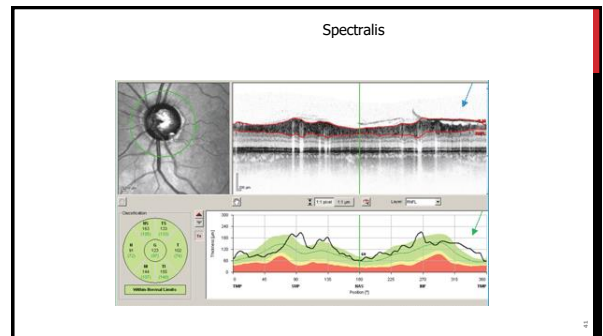
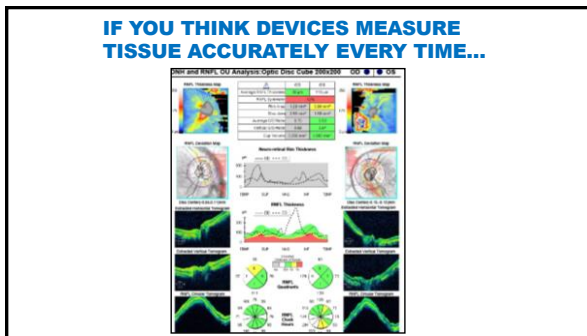
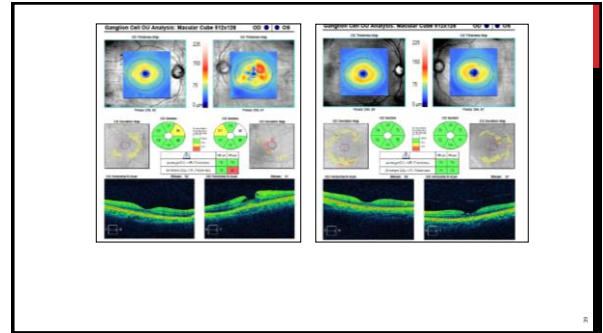
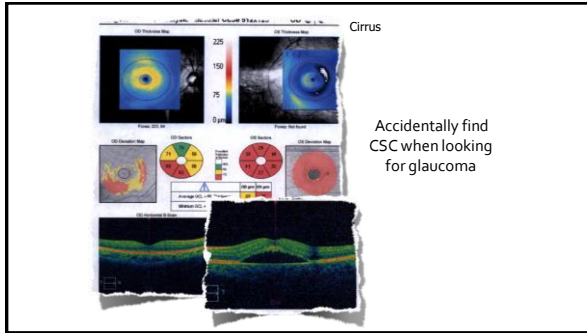
- Quality score
- Illumination
- Focus clarity
- Image centered
- Any signs of eye movement
- Segmentation accuracy
- B Scan Centration
- Missing data
- Media issues
- Maculopathy for GCC scans



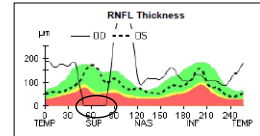
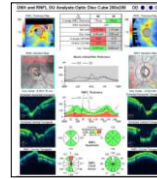
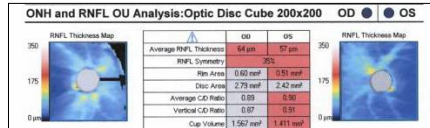
34

### EYE MOVEMENT





## FLOOR EFFECT



Don't make clinical decisions based upon bad data

## MISTAKE TO AVOID

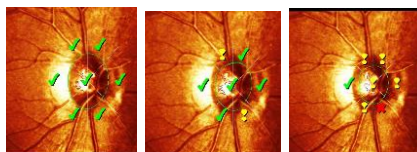
- Treating red disease

## RED DISEASE – A NEW CLINICAL NON-ENTITY

- A supratentorial, non-glaucomatous masquerade disease
- Afflicts the educated patient (especially with Internet access) with good health care plans and/or wealth
- Debilitating to the patient and painful for the visual care provider to treat

Sherlock, NS. 2005. *Journal of Irreproducible Results and Senseless Studies*

## SCANNING LASER OPHTHALMOSCOPY EXAMPLE OF RED DISEASE



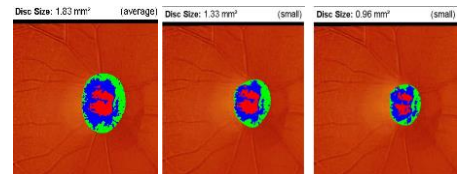
First Visit

Follow up visit #1

Follow up visit #2

HRT3 Optic Nerve Head Changes  
How long did this change take?

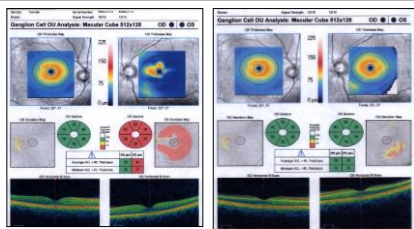
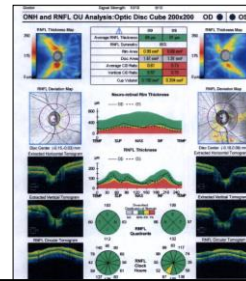
## WITHIN 15 MINUTES! HRT DISC SIZING ARTIFACT



### HELP! THE DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING DOESN'T AGREE WITH MY DIAGNOSIS!

- Low risk OHTN
- Local OD wants imaging for baseline

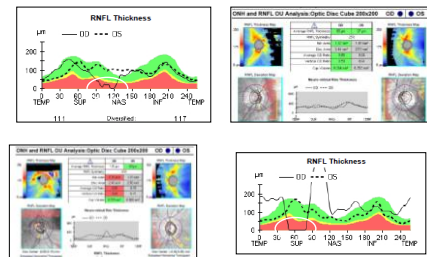
### OCT RNFL NORMAL...



...but markedly abnormal  
GCC OS

Same patient, same day, same  
quality, GCC now normal

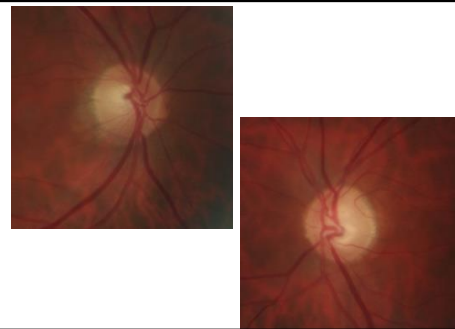
Signal strength: 10/10 OD, OS on  
both images



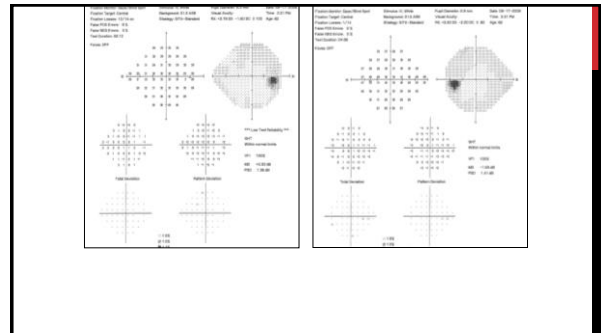
Don't make clinical decisions based upon  
bad data

### CASE: 62 YOHH

- Asymptomatic; 20/20 OD; OS
- PERRL (-) RAPD
- TA 30 mm OD, 28 mm OS
  - Isolated measurement
  - 12-17 mm OD, 13-17 mm OS
    - 11 visits
- Gonio: open OU w/o abnormalities
- CCT: 597 OU







### MISTAKE TO AVOID

- **Not treating green disease**

## GREEN DISEASE—AN INSIDIOUS CLINICAL ENTITY

### A glaucomatous process masquerading as non-disease

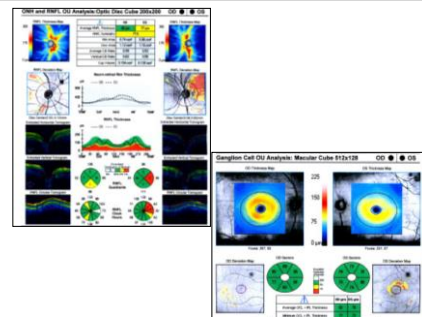
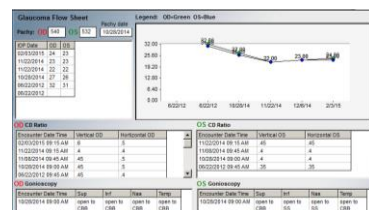
**Afflicts inexperienced, poorly-educated doctors who simply want a machine to make all clinical decisions for them**

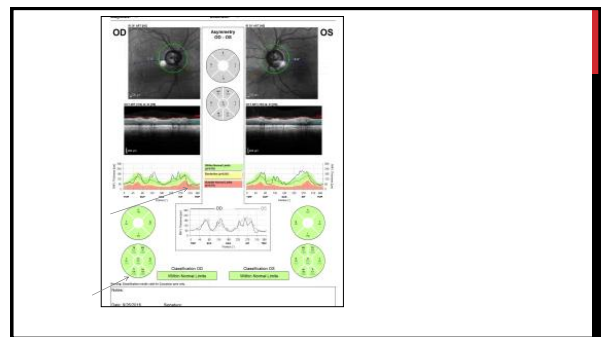
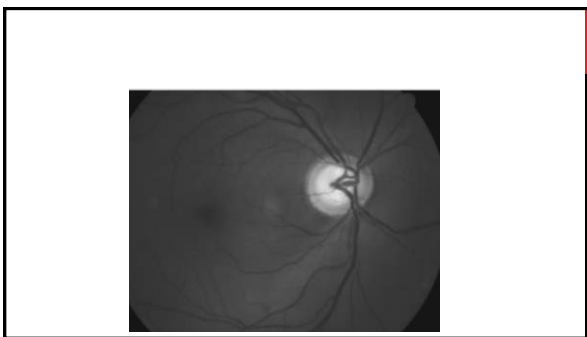
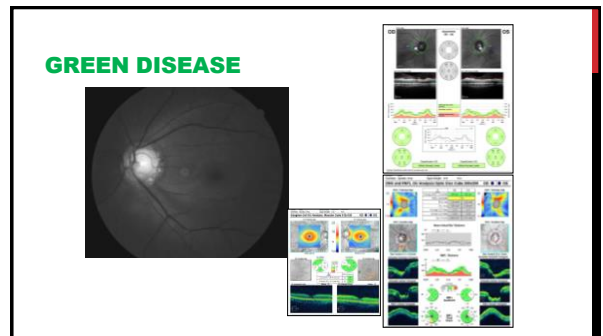
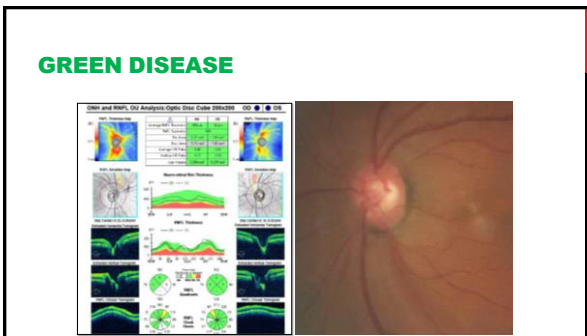
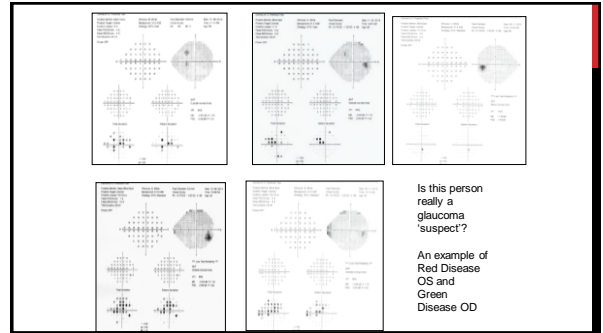
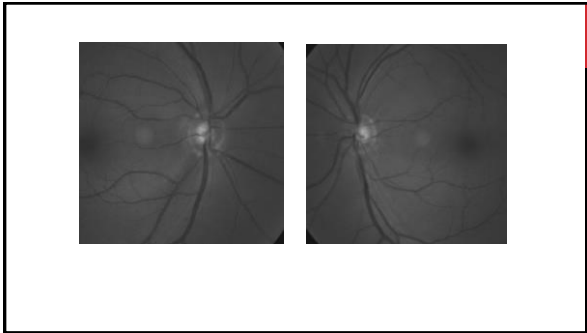
### Debilitating to the patient and painful for the visual care provider, but a boon for malpractice attorneys

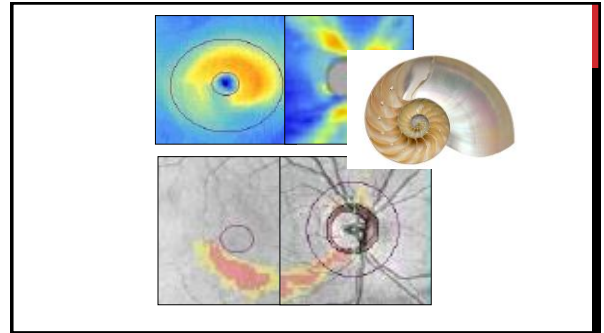
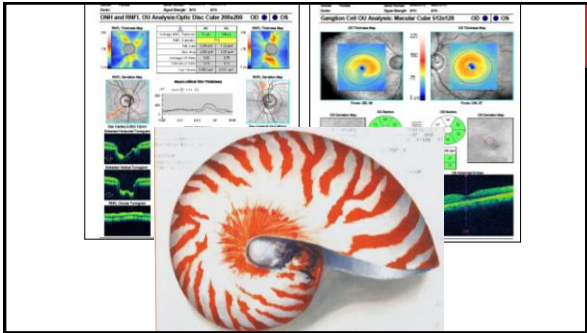
Sherlock NS. 2015. *Journal of Irreproducible Results and Senseless Studies*

## HELP! THE DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING DOESN'T AGREE WITH MY DIAGNOSIS!

- 56 YOM- Glaucoma suspect since 2012







### OCT IMAGING TAKE HOME POINTS

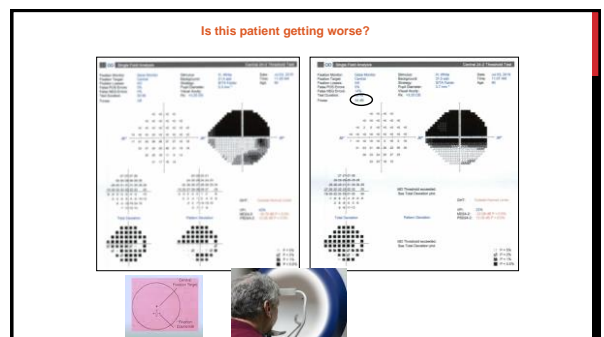
- Serial overlays/imaging to determine baseline (intra-session) noise
- Good signal strength
- Good segmentation without errors
- Optic nerve head exam for disc hemorrhage, pallor, myopic, and tilted nerve heads
- Determine structure-function correlation
- Follow all ancillary tests visual fields and optic nerve head photos for progression

### CAUTIONS ABOUT IMAGING

- No current technology is better than the human eye and common sense
- Beware of "Red Disease"
- Treat Real Disease and not Red Disease
- Don't miss Green Disease
- Know the limitations of the technology: normative database, reproducibility, resolution, quality of imaging
- Technologies come and go

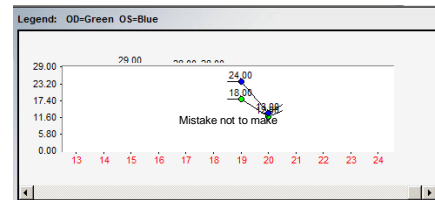
### MISTAKE TO AVOID

- Changing therapy based upon one bad IOP or field

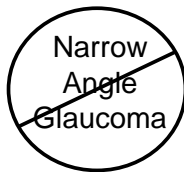


**MISTAKE TO AVOID**

- Not getting enough pre-treatment...and post-treatment IOPs

**MISTAKE TO AVOID**

- Not getting enough pre-treatment...and post-treatment IOPs

**MISTAKE TO AVOID****CURRENT TERMINOLOGY**

- Primary angle closure suspect
- Primary angle closure
- Primary angle closure glaucoma
- Primary angle closure attack

**PRIMARY ANGLE CLOSURE SUSPECT**

- Pigmented trabecular meshwork blocked by iris
  - Extent of blockage not clear- about 180 degrees
- No PAS
- Disc and IOP normal
- Probe for symptoms of intermittent closure
- Not clear if LPI or observation is better

**PRIMARY ANGLE CLOSURE**

- Pigmented TM is blocked by iris for 180°
- Have either PAS or elevated IOP
- No disc damage or field loss
- Considered pathologic
- LPI recommended

## PRIMARY ANGLE CLOSURE GLAUCOMA

- Pigmented TM is blocked by iris for 180°
- Have either PAS or elevated IOP
- Glaucomatous neuropathy and field loss
- LPI recommended

## PRIMARY ANGLE CLOSURE ATTACK

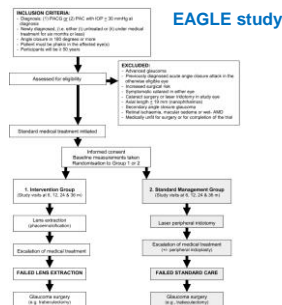
- Near complete apposition of iris to pigmented TM
- Classic signs and symptoms
  - Injection, vision loss, nausea, emesis, halos, corneal edema, elevated IOP, inflammation, mid-dilated fixed pupil
- Medical therapy, iridotomy, iridoplasty, trabeculectomy
  - Lens extraction?

Name	Iridotrabecular contact (> 180)	Increased IOP	PAS	GON	Acute Attack
PACS	+	-	-	-	-
PAC (CAC)	+	+/-	+/-	-	-
PACG (CACG)	+	+/-	+/-	+	-
AAC	+	+	+/-	+/-	+

UCLA Stein Eye Institute | DOHERTY EYE INSTITUTE | Emanuel, Parrish, Gedde; 2014

## MISTAKE TO AVOID

- Thinking LPI is the best management for angle closure glaucoma



## EAGLE STUDY

- Removal of clear lenses in eyes with PACG with IOP > 21 mm or eyes with PAC (without glaucoma) and IOP > 30 mm. 419 patients. Findings included:
- Patients undergoing phaco lens extraction had far fewer IOP controlling meds compared to LPI
- Only 1 patient needed trabeculectomy after phaco whereas 24 patients in the LPI group needed trabeculectomy

Azuara-Blanco A, Burr JM, Cochran C, et al. Effectiveness in Angle-closure Glaucoma of Lens Extraction (EAGLE) Study Group. The effectiveness of early lens extraction with intracapsular lens separation for the treatment of primary angle-closure glaucoma (EAGLE). The Lancet. Volume 388, No. 10052, p1389-1397, 1 October 2016.

## ACUTE ATTACK MANAGEMENT

- Lens removal has been found to be a more effective treatment for an attack of acute primary angle closure (APAC) than laser iridotomy.
- Compared with the eyes that underwent iridotomy, those treated with phacoemulsification experienced dramatically fewer IOP elevations, had lower mean IOPs, required fewer medications, and had deeper angles following lens removal.
- In APAC eyes presenting with an IOP greater than 55 mm Hg, phacoemulsification was a "definitive treatment" for preventing subsequent IOP elevations

Lam DS, Leung DY, Leung DY, et al. Randomized trial of early phacoemulsification versus peripheral iridotomy to prevent intraocular pressure rise after acute primary angle closure. Ophthalmology. 2008;115:1134-40.

## YOU ARE DOING IT CORRECTLY IF YOU RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF LENS REMOVAL

- EAGLE study clearly shows that clear lens extraction is preferred management of chronic angle closure.
- Acute angle closure attack: break the attack medically and get the lens removed within a month.

## TO ZAP OR NOT TO ZAP...THAT IS THE QUESTION

## ZAP STUDY

Guo, D., et al. 2019. Design and methodology of a randomized controlled trial of laser iridotomy for the prevention of angle closure in southern China: the Zhongshan angle Closure Prevention trial. *BMJ Open* 19(1):e025555. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2019-025555.

**Design and methodology of a randomized controlled trial of laser iridotomy for the prevention of angle closure in southern China: the Zhongshan angle Closure Prevention trial.**

Jiang L\*, Guo D, Chen L, Zhang S, Zhang S, Zhang S, et al.

**Abstract**

**PURPOSE:** To summarize the design and methodology of a large-scale trial in southern China, the Zhongshan Angle Closure Prevention (ZAP) trial. This trial will determine if laser iridotomy (LI) is superior to no treatment for managing Chinese people who are Primary Angle Closure Suspects (PACS). In this trial, PACS was defined as having 6 or more clock hours of angle circumference in which the pigmented trabecular meshwork was not visible under static gonioscopy in both eyes without elevated intraocular pressure, peripheral anterior synechiae or glaucomatous neuropathy.

**METHODS:** Subjects were recruited from an urban district in Guangdong. The target sample size was 670. Persons 50 years of age and older with 20/40 or better vision in both eyes identified as having 6 or more clock hours of angle circumference in which the pigmented trabecular meshwork was not visible under static gonioscopy in both eyes were enrolled. Each subject was randomized to undergo LI in one eye with the fellow eye left untreated. Follow-up is planned for a minimum period of 3 years. Baseline examination included tonometry, central corneal thickness, gonioscopy, fundus photography, anterior segment coherence tomography, ultrasound A scan, ultrasound biomicroscopy, specular microscopy and dark room provocative testing. Endpoints for the study include developing elevated intraocular pressure, peripheral anterior synechiae or experiencing acute primary angle closure.

**CONCLUSION:** The ZAP trial will determine if LI is safe and effective at preventing pathological angle closure in asymptomatic eyes with normal angle configurations on gonioscopy. It will also provide data on what happens to untreated eyes in PACS. Data collected at baseline will also help identify those at high risk for developing primary angle closure and primary angle closure glaucoma.

## Laser peripheral iridotomy for the prevention of angle closure: a single-centre, randomised controlled trial

Mingyuan He, Yuchen Jiang, Shengrong Huang, Dolly S Chang, Beatriz Munoz, Tin Aung, Paul J Foster\*, David S Friedman\*

- **Zhongshan Angle Closure Prevention (ZAP) trial**
- **Purpose:** to determine if laser iridotomy is superior to observation in primary angle closure suspects in China over a 6 year period
  - PACS = 6 or more clock hours where posterior trabecular meshwork was not visible
    - Without elevated IOP, disc change, or peripheral anterior synechiae
- **Endpoint:** elevated IOP—used dark-room prone provocative testing (compared pre-test IOP to IOP measured after 15 minutes in a dark room in prone position), PAC, acute angle closure

## ZAP RESULTS

- **889 angle closure suspects**
  - One eye received LPI and the other observation
- **Outcomes at 72 months:**
  - IOP > 24 mm; development of at least 1 clock hour of PAS, or acute attack.
- **Results:**
  - Outcome in 4.19 per 1000 eyes/yr in treated and 7.97 per 1000 eyes/yr (19 treated eyes and 38 untreated eyes)
    - Acute angle closure: 5 patients untreated, 1 treated (3 control eyes and one LPI eye were after dilation)
  - Prophylactic LPI statistically significantly reduced incidence of ACG, but the actual event was very infrequent and hard to justify widespread use.
  - Very low rate of angle closure in suspect eyes (<1%/yr); prophylactic LPI did confer 47% risk reduction
  - Authors determined that laser peripheral iridotomy was not justified

J. Am. Ophthalmol. 2021 Jun;165(6):705-714. doi: 10.1016/j.jao.2021.04.016.  
Online ahead of print.

#### The impact of pharmacological dilation on intraocular pressure in primary angle closure suspects

Liuhua Wang,<sup>1</sup> Wenqiang Huang,<sup>2</sup> Huihui Han,<sup>3</sup> Chao Liu,<sup>4</sup> Linglin Li,<sup>5</sup> Mingqiang He,<sup>2</sup>

JAMA Ophthalmol. 2021 Jun;165(6):705-714.

PMID: 34187780 DOI: 10.1093/jao.2021.04.016

**Conclusions:** Post-dilation IOP elevation is similar among treated and untreated eyes, and the risk of developing AAC is very low even among PACS. Routine LPI before pupil dilation for PACS people is not recommended.

In 107 eyes with IOP in one randomly selected eye and a fellow untreated eye were included. All participants underwent comprehensive examinations before and at 3 weeks, 4 to 10 weeks, 10 to 30 weeks, and 31 to 52 weeks. IOP was measured using Goldmann applanation tonometry before and 1 hour after pharmacological dilation.

**Results:** The mean pre-dilation IOP in the untreated eyes was 14.8±2.7 mmHg, which increased to 16.4±2.7 mmHg after pharmacological dilation ( $p<0.001$ ). The treated and untreated eyes had similar pre-dilation and post-dilation IOP ( $p=0.05$ ). The average post-dilation IOP elevation was 1.5 mmHg in the treated eyes and 1.5 mmHg in the untreated eyes without significant difference ( $p=0.802$ ). Lower pre-dilation IOP ( $p<0.001$ ), smaller AC/DSS ( $p<0.001$ ), smaller MAOD ( $p<0.001$ ), smaller TMOD ( $p<0.001$ ), and larger angle ( $p<0.001$ ) were associated with post-dilation IOP elevation 1 mmHg and greater. There were no significant differences in IOP elevation and post-dilation IOP between the treated and untreated eyes.

**Conclusions:** Post-dilation IOP elevation is similar among treated and untreated eyes, and the risk of developing AAC is very low even among PACS. Routine LPI before pupil dilation for PACS people is not recommended.



## Anatomic Changes and Predictors of Angle Widening after Laser Peripheral Iridotomy

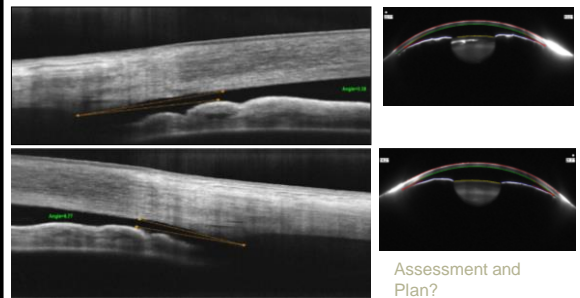
### The Zhongshan Angle Closure Prevention Trial

Benjamin Y. Xu, MD, PhD,<sup>1</sup> David S. Friedman, MD, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Paul J. Foster, FRCS(Ed), PhD,<sup>3</sup> Yu Jiang, MD,<sup>4</sup> Anmol A. Pardeshi, MS,<sup>5</sup> Yuzhen Jiang, MD, PhD,<sup>6</sup> Beatriz Munoz, MS,<sup>7</sup> Tin Aung, FRCS(Ed), PhD,<sup>8</sup> Mingguang He, MD, PhD<sup>9</sup>

**Conclusions:** Superior LPI location results in significantly greater angle widening compared with temporal or nasal locations in a Chinese population with PACS. This supports consideration of superior LPI locations to optimize anatomic changes after LPI. *Ophthalmology* 2021;130:1-8 © 2021 by the American Academy of Ophthalmology

## 74 YOF

- CC: Blurred vision OU
- BVA: +5.25-1.75x145 20/60; +5.50-0.25x45 20/20
- PERRL(-)RAPD
- Nuclear sclerotic cataracts OD>OS
- IOP 30 mm OD, 25 mm OS
- Narrow angles
- Gonio: No structures OD; ATM nasal and temporal OS- otherwise no structures seen
- Fundus: no view undilated



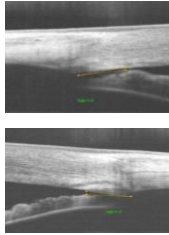
## 74 YOF

- Diagnosis: Primary chronic angle closure (glaucoma?)
- Plan: sampled PGA and set for cataract consult
- IOP at consult: 17 mm OD, OS
- Surgical measurements made (no dilation)- planned cataract extraction basic emme OD, then OS; CPM
- Pt cancelled surgery twice- reasons unknown.

**YOU CAN LEAD AN ANGLE CLOSURE TO OSMOGLYN, BUT YOU CAN'T MAKE HIM DRINK**

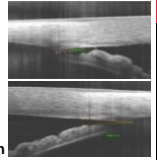
### BACKED INTO A CLOSURE CORNER

- 30 YOF
- 2018: Referred for narrow angles
- BVA: +2.00 DS 20/20; +1.25 DS 20/20
- Gonio: "slit OU" Grade 1 OU
- IOP 18 mm OU
- Dx: PACS OU
- Plan LPI OU



### BACKED INTO A CLOSURE CORNER

- Follow up (2018)
- No appreciable change after LPI
- Gonio: grade 1; no PAS, double hump sign
- Dx: plateau iris syndrome
- Plan: Discussion iridoplasty, pilocarpine, lens extraction
- Observation recommended
- Other glaucoma specialists may have different approach
  - welcome to second opinion
- Do not start any new medication without clearance
  - Cold and allergy meds



### BACKED INTO A CLOSURE CORNER

- 2022: Emergently presents with migraine aura
- Records reviewed
- No resolution to issue
- Forgot about the medication admonition
- Has been told that she can never be dilated
- She is worried and doesn't know what to do
- So, what do we do?



### BACKED INTO A CLOSURE CORNER

- Can this 30 YO go the rest of her life without dilation?
- Really no great options (Pilo? Iridoplasty? Lens extraction at 30 years old?)
- Hasn't had an attack yet
- Harry Quigley, MD, "You just don't know, so sometimes you gotta bite the bullet, dilate, and see what happens. But you don't do it on Friday at 4 pm. You do it Friday at 9 am and tell them that they will be here until lunch time"



### BACKED INTO A CLOSURE CORNER

- Returns 8:30 am Tuesday
- IOP: 22 mm OD, 22 mm at 8:30 am; pt informed of risks; dilated 0.5% tropicamide
  - Diamox and Combigan ready
    - It works- trust me
- IOP: 22 mm OD, 22 mm OS at 9:30 am
- IOP: 22 mm OD, 23 mm OS at 1:15 pm; pupil in mid-dilated state
- Fundus normal OU; C/D 0.2 OU
- Pt educated si/sx AACG
- Will follow annually

### MISTAKE TO AVOID

- Thinking that glaucoma causes collateral disc vascularization



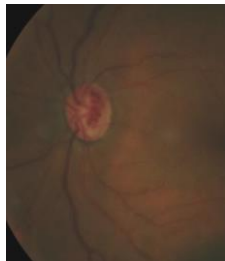
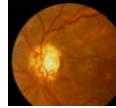
## COLLATERAL VESSELS

- Historically and often incorrectly called "Optociliary shunt vessels"
  - They are not opto, not ciliary, and not a shunt
- Collateral (not shunt)
- May be on the optic disc or in the retina
- Pre-existing anastomotic communications involving deep capillary beds through which blood flows in response to vascular occlusion
- Retinochoroidal: Typically venule to venule in retina or retinal venule to choroidal venule
- Highly indicative of retinal vascular occlusion



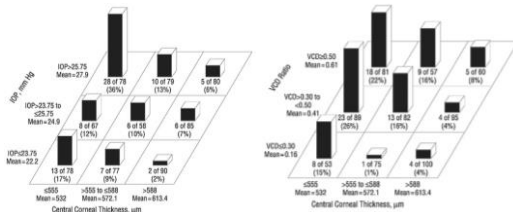
## COLLATERAL VESSELS

- Non-fenestrated and non-leaking
- Common after vein occlusion
  - Collaterals, optic atrophy, vision loss
- Occurs from nerve sheath meningioma
- Has been said to occur secondary to glaucoma. Urban legend/ error.
- Acquired collateral vessels occur in association with ophthalmic conditions that produce impaired retinal venous outflow
  - Where is the venous outflow stagnation in glaucoma?
- Glaucoma and vein occlusion are commonly occurring co-morbidities.
- Glaucoma patients who have collaterals likely have had a previous vein occlusion.



## MISTAKE TO AVOID

- Correcting IOP based upon pachymetry



Central Corneal Thickness (Microns)	Adjustment in IOP (mm Hg)
445	+7
455	+6
465	+6
475	+5
485	+4
495	+4
505	+3
515	+2
525	+1
535	+1
545	0
555	-1
565	-1
575	-2
585	-3
595	-4
605	-4
615	-5
625	-6
635	-6
645	-7

## Why CCT-based IOP correction is flawed

Can't we calculate "true IOP" using pachymetry (CCT)?

**NO!** Central Corneal Thickness based IOP adjustment algorithms **DO NOT WORK**. These formulas have been scientifically discredited and the glaucoma opinion leaders of the world are cautioning clinicians against using them.

As such, CCT correction tables and pachymeters and tonometers that provide CCT-based "corrected" IOP values are **OBSOLETE**.

**"Correction nomograms that adjust GAT IOP based solely on CCT are neither valid nor useful in individual patients"**

• Pg 18. Robert N. Weinreb, James D. Branniff, David Garway-Heath and Felipe Medeiros  
World Glaucoma Association on Intraocular Pressure: Consensus Series 4; May 5, 2007

World Glaucoma Association

Intraocular Pressure



Robert N. Weinreb, James D. Branniff,  
David Garway-Heath and Felipe Medeiros

Consensus Series 4

Expert Publications, The Hague, The Netherlands

6. Correction nomograms that adjust GAT IOP based solely on CCT are neither valid nor useful in individual patients.  
Comment: A thick cornea gives rise to a greater probability of an IOP being over-estimated (and a thin cornea of an IOP being under-estimated), but the extent of measurement error in individual patients cannot be ascertained from the CCT alone.
7. Measurement of CCT is important in assessing risk for incident glaucoma among ocular hypertensives in the clinical setting, though the association between CCT and glaucoma risk may be less strong in the population at large.

## MISTAKE TO AVOID

- Not recognizing patients who will likely do well

## CLINICAL PEARL

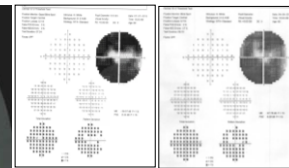
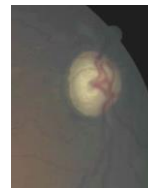
- You can only call a glaucoma patient "well controlled" in retrospect
- Some patients progress slowly without treatment and some progress rapidly, even with treatment
  - You don't know who is who until you follow up over time



## PATIENTS I WORRY LESS ABOUT

## 66 YOM

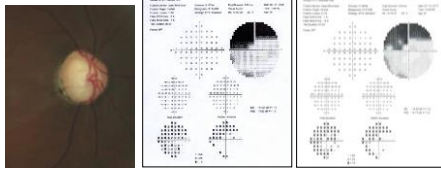
- Starting IOP 58 mm Hg; CCT 536
  - 20/30 OD; OS not seeing due to vascular occlusion
- Stepped regimen: Brimonidine, dorzolamide/timolol, latanoprost, pilocarpine (GlaucAll)- IOP 14 mm Hg



Baseline • Very high peak IOP  
• Exceptional IOP reduction (75%) ● 2 years

**61YOM**

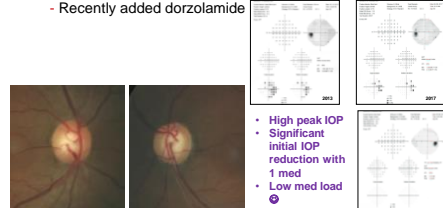
- IOP 30 mm; CCT 545
- Latanoprost, dorzolamide/timolol – 12 mm



- High peak IOP
- Excellent IOP reduction (60%)

**53 YOM**

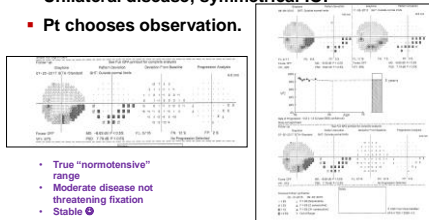
- Peak IOP: 32 mm OD, 43 mm OS; CCT 453 OD, 446 OS
- Latanoprost: 15-18 mm OD, 18-22 mm OS
- Recently added dorzolamide



- High peak IOP
- Significant initial IOP reduction with 1 med
- Low med load

**63 YOF: GLAUCOMA OS X 5 YEARS**

- IOP typical range: 14-18 OD; 15-18 OS; CCT: 556 OD; 543 OS
- Unilateral disease; symmetrical IOP
- Pt chooses observation.



- True "normotensive" range
- Moderate disease not threatening fixation
- Stable

**MISTAKE TO AVOID**

- Not identifying patients who likely will not do well.

**WHICH PATIENTS REPRESENT UNSUSPECTING DANGER?****65 YOM**

- Peak IOP 22 mm OD, 29 mm OS; CCT 560
- Followed 7 yrs
- Latanoprost, dorzolamide/timolol, brimonidine- 15 mm OD, 14 mm OS
- Time to MMT: 3 ½ years

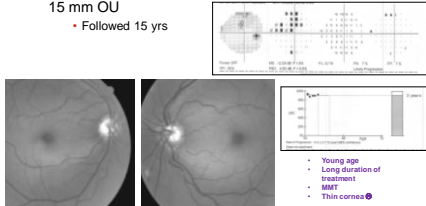


Fields unchanged; possible disc change OS

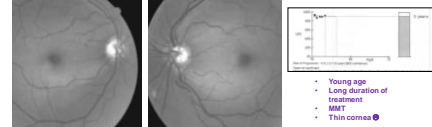
- Peak IOP not terribly high
- Short duration to MMT
- High med load for modest reduction

**55 YOF**

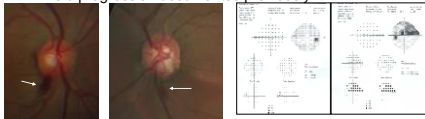
- **Initial: Peak IOP??- treated since age 35**
- Timolol; CCT 472 OD, 497 OS; Disc change OD 2010
- Currently: latanoprost, dorzolamide/timolol, brimonidine; 15 mm OU
- Followed 15 yrs

**55 YOF**

- **Shows late progression on field OU at IOP of 15 mm OU**
- Difficulty arranging surgery due to insurance
- Pt had to leave country 4 months
- Switched latanoprost with Rocklatan (other meds continued)
- IOP now 09 mm OD, 10 mm OS

**53 YOF**

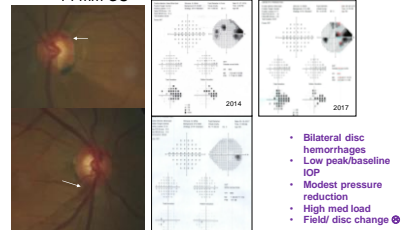
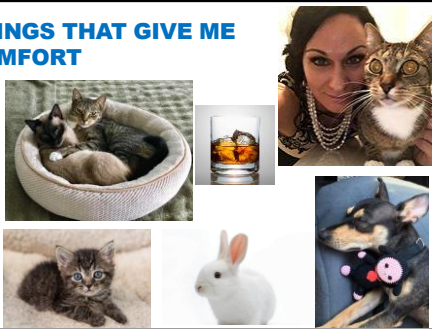
- **Peak IOP: 20 mm OD, 22 mm OS; CCT: 510 OD, 508 OS**
- **Treated IOP: 12-15 mm OD, 12-16 mm OS**
- Brimonidine, latanoprost, dorzolamide/timolol
- Field progression documented previously



Low baseline IOP (low 20s), MMT to achieve 'modest' IOP reduction, bilateral recurrent disc hemorrhages

**69 YOF: POAG OU X 11 YEARS**

- **Peak IOP: 20 mm OU; CCT: 540 OD, 532 OS**
- Dorzolamide/timolol; latanoprost OU; IOP- 15 mm OD, 14 mm OS

**THINGS THAT GIVE ME COMFORT****OTHER THINGS THAT GIVE ME COMFORT**



- **High initial peak IOP**
- 30s and 40s better than low 20s
- **Significant IOP reduction**
- Regardless of disc/ field status
- **Good initial response to one medication**
- **Minimal medications**
- **High peak IOP and significant medical response**



## THINGS THAT MAKE ME UNCOMFORTABLE



## OTHER THINGS THAT MAKE ME UNCOMFORTABLE

- Exfoliation 
- Disc hemorrhages 
- Rapid escalation in therapy
  - Adding 2 meds w/i 3 years
- Low peak IOP
  - Low to mid 20s bad
  - Mid teens- not so bad
- Poor initial IOP reduction
- Low peak IOP and poor initial IOP reduction



## ODE TO GLAUCOMA TREATMENT

When the pressure starts high and the treated drop great,

Likely a good outcome is to be the fate.

Compliance, exfoliation and disc hemorrhage must be watched,

So the case doesn't get botched.

Most patients can be predicted,

And your Zen won't be afflicted

But some patients will surprise,

And cause your blood pressure to rise.

Lowering 22 down to 18 is not enough,

Go for 50% so they don't snuff.

Joseph Sowka, OD

## BE AWARE OF THE GRAY AREA WHERE DANGER LURKS...



## ...MAY YOU HAVE NOTHING BUT KITTENS AND BUNNIES



## STAY SAFE EVERYONE

