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Introduction

- Glaucoma is an <u>optic neuropathy</u> associated with characteristic damage to the optic nerve head (cupping) and the visual field (nerve fibre bundle defects).
- It is a <u>blinding disease</u> where first the peripheral visual field becomes constricted, followed by loss of central visual acuity

- Glaucoma, if defined with either field or nerve criteria, has a prevalence of 5.6%
- If defined with both field and nerve criteria, it has a prevalence of 2.4%
- The appearance of the optic nerve head and visual fields are the major factors for a diagnosis of glaucoma

Risk Factors

- Age
- Ethnicity
- Family History
- Intraocular pressure (IOP) is the most important risk factor
- Trauma
- Eye surgery
- Drugs
- Refractive errors

Non-IOP dependent risk factors

- Systemic Vascular Dysregulation
 Raynaud's, Prinzmetal Angina, Migraine
- Nocturnal Hypotension
- Sleep Apnea

Intraocular Pressure IOP

- An elevated eye pressure is neither necessary nor sufficient to make the diagnosis:
 - in "<u>normal tension glaucoma</u>", the patient is never found to have a pressure over the normal limits
 - in "<u>ocular hypertension</u>" the patient has high eye pressures but no signs of optic nerve or visual field damage

- The level of the <u>intraocular pressure</u> is the main risk factor, and is important in the monitoring of treatment
- Gonioscopy is of major importance in the classification of the glaucoma type
- The <u>extent of damage</u> to the optic nerve and visual field determines the <u>stage</u> of the glaucoma

Basic Principles-IOP

- Intraocular pressure (IOP) represents the equilibrium between the rigidity of the cornea and sclera, and the outward pressure of the ocular contents
- As the vitreous is of fixed volume, the most important variable is the <u>amount of aqueous</u> <u>humour</u>, which varies with respect to <u>production and drainage</u>.
- The pathology of elevated intraocular pressure is due to <u>inadequacies of aqueous</u> <u>outflow</u> rather than production

- The normal mean IOP is 15.5 mm Hg
- Range is 10-21 mm Hg
- Diurnal variations exist
- Many ways to measure it but standard is Goldmann Applanation Tonometry –GAT



Basic Principles- Aqueous Humor

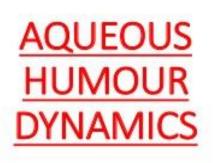
- The volume of the aqueous humour in the anterior segment is 0.25 cc or 250 µL
- One quarter of this is in the posterior chamber and three quarters in the anterior chamber
- The ciliary body produces 2.5 µL per minute, with complete turnover of the aqueous in about 100 minutes

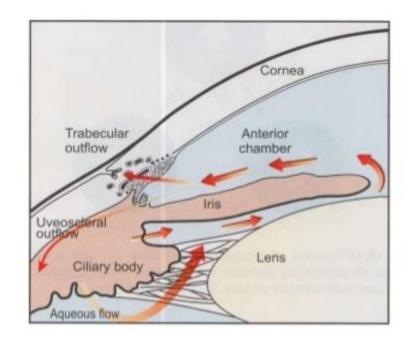
Aqueous Humor

- It is Produced by the non pigmented epithelium of the ciliary processes
- Produced by :
 - Ultrafiltration
 - Active secretion

Aqueous Humor Pathway

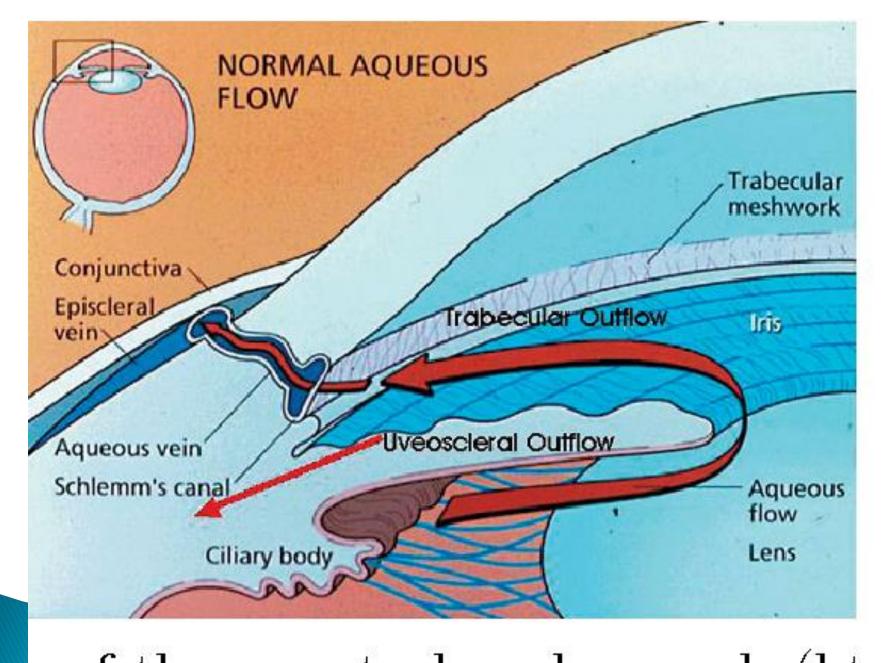
 Aqueous humor passes from the posterior chamber between the iris and the lens through the pupil into the anterior chamber





Aqueous Humor Pathway

- It drains through 2 pathways:
 - <u>Conventional</u> (80-90%): trabecular meshwork, Canal of Schlemm, aqueous veins and episcleral veins
 - <u>Uveoscleral</u> (10-20%): Face of the ciliary body and iris to the supraciliary/suprachoroidal space.



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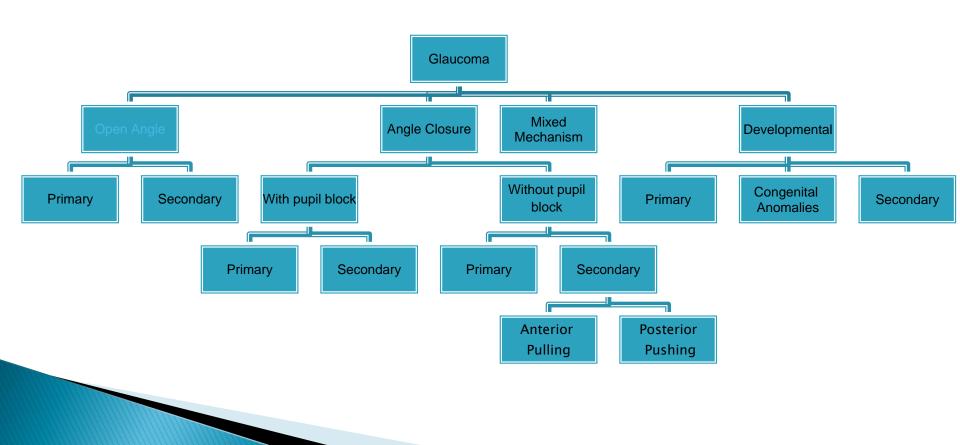
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Classification

- Glaucoma is not a single disease, but a large number of similar conditions with factors in common.
- It is usually classified on the basis of the anatomy of the anterior chamber angle as <u>open or closed</u>, and each type has <u>primary</u> <u>and secondary</u> sub-categories.

Glaucoma Classification



Open Angle Glaucoma

- Primary Open Angle Glaucoma POAG:
 - Idiopathic increase in outflow resistance
- Secondary Open Angle Glaucoma SOAG:
 - Clogging of trabecular meshwork TM
 - Increased episcleral venous pressure EVP
 - Scarring of TM
 - Increased TM resistance due to medications (steroids)

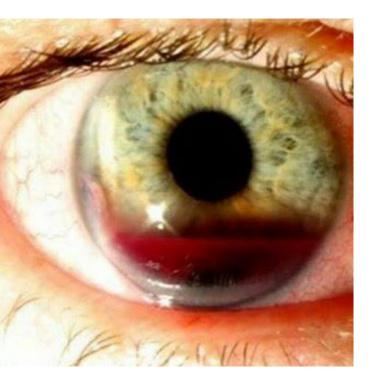
POAG

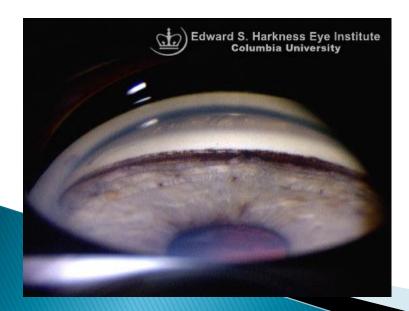
- Most prevalent type
- Female = male
- More common in myopes
- Asymptomatic till late in the disease
- IOP 20–40 mmHg

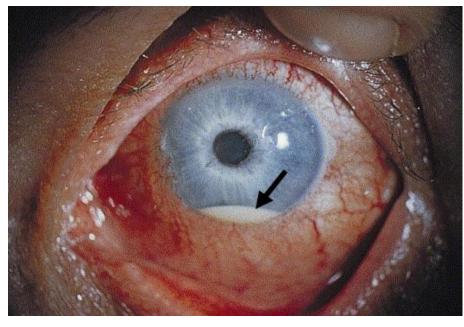
SOAG

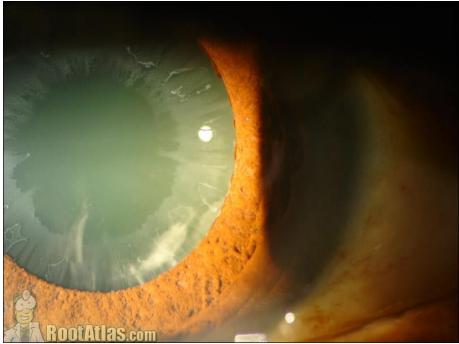
Clogging:

- RBCs: Hyphema
- WBCs: Uveitis
- Pigment: pigment dispersion syndrome, melanoma
- Proteins: Pseudoexfoliation syndrome lens proteins









SOAG

Increased EVP:

- Carotid cavernous fistula
- Sturg Weber Syndrome
- SVC obstruction
- Scarring:
 - Angle recession (trauma)



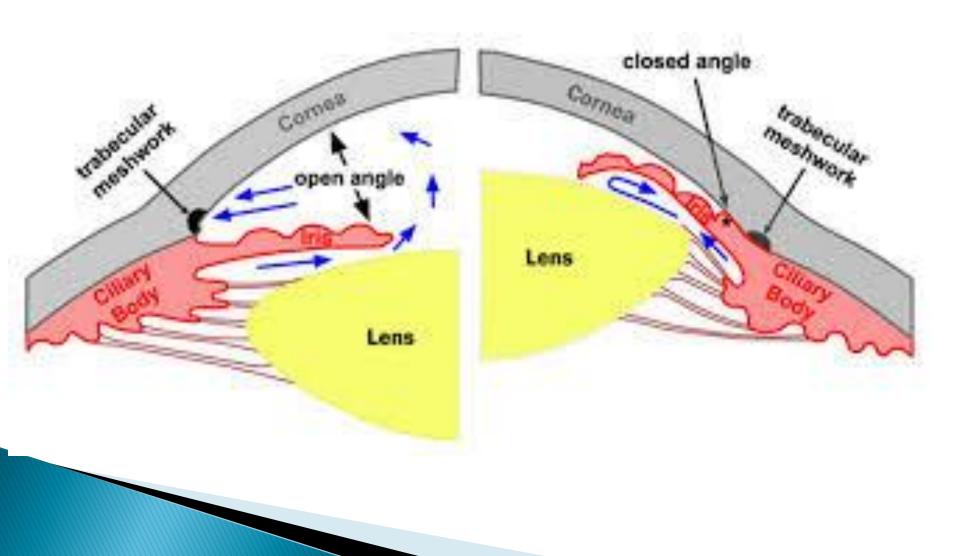
Closed Angle Glaucoma

- Anatomic features predisposing to angle closure: shallow anterior chamber (e.g., hyperopia, short eye)
- Advanced age (>60 years).
- Female gender
- Inuit and Asian ethnicity
- Eye injury with scarring and adhesions
- Rubeosis iridis
- Drugs: Sulfonamides, TCA, MAOi, antihistamines
- Mydriasis
 - I. Drug-induced: mydriatics
 - II. Darkness
 - III. Stress/fear response

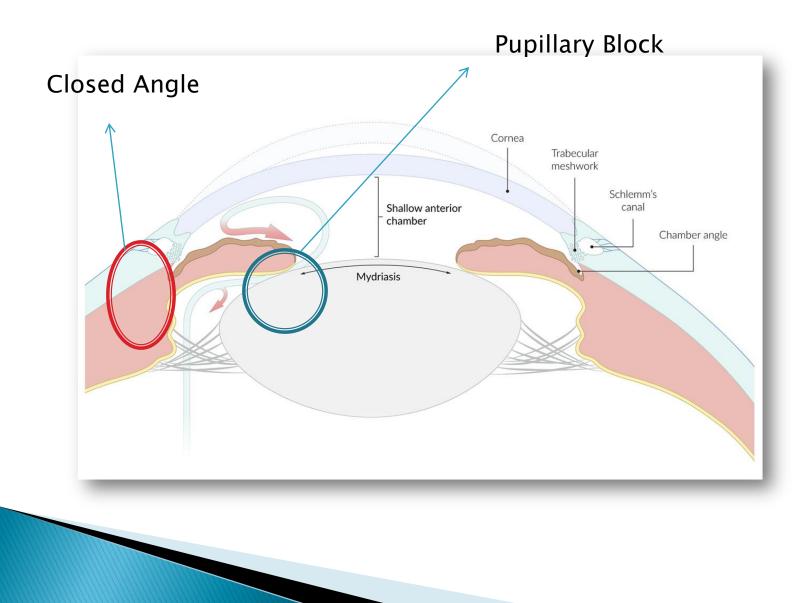
Pathophysiology

- Blocked trabecular meshwork → decreased drainage of aqueous humor from the eye → sudden ↑ in IOP
- A. Primary : the chamber angle is narrowed due to the peripheral iris obstructing the TM.
- B. Secondary :
 - A. Scarring: PAS or PS
 - B. Lens luxation/ large cataracts
 - C. Rubeosis iridis (neovascular glaucoma)

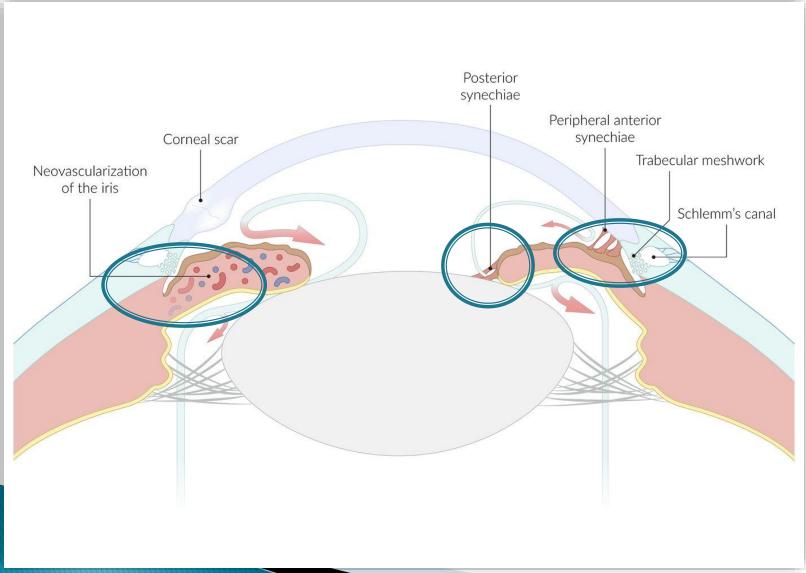
Open vs Closed Angle



Acute Angle Closure with pupillary Block



Chronic Angle Closure-NVG/ Uveitis



Clinical Presentation of Acute Angle Closure Attack

- Sudden onset of symptoms
- Severely painful eye (hard on palpation), redness
- Photophobia and excessive tearing
- Headache, nausea and vomiting
- Blurred vision and halos seen around lights
- Complications: irreversible damage of the optic nerve

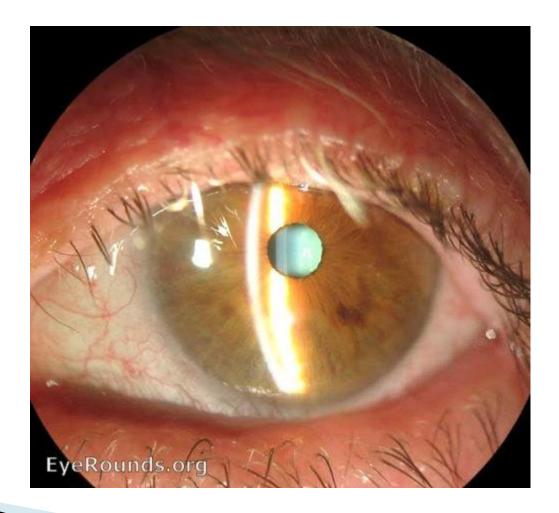
Diagnosis – Physical Examination

- Decreased visual acuity
- Non reactive, fixed oval pupil
- Cloudy edematous cornea
- Shallow anterior chamber
- Closed angle on gonioscopy
- IOP > 40 mm Hg

Injected, Cloudy cornea, oval pupil



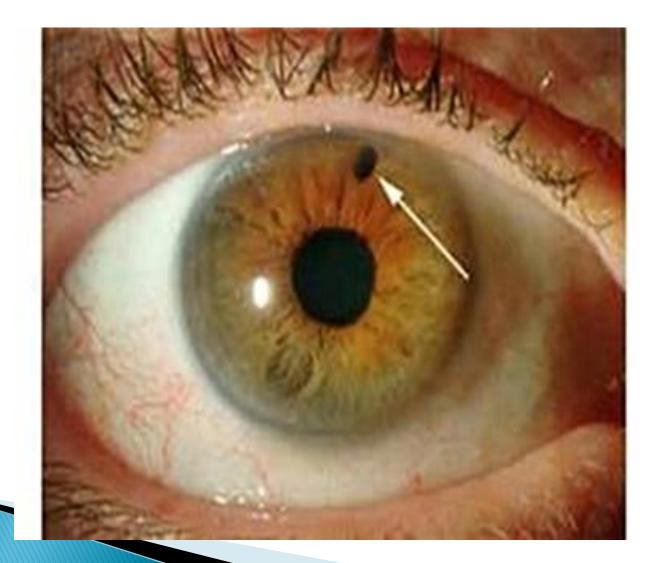
Shallow A/C

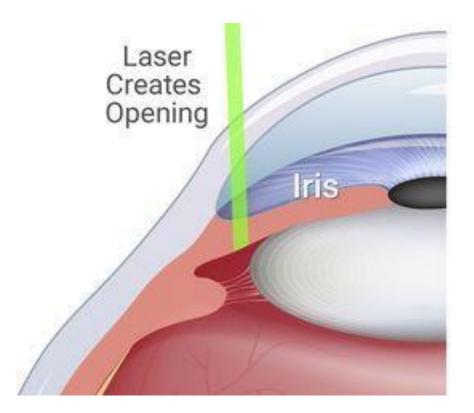


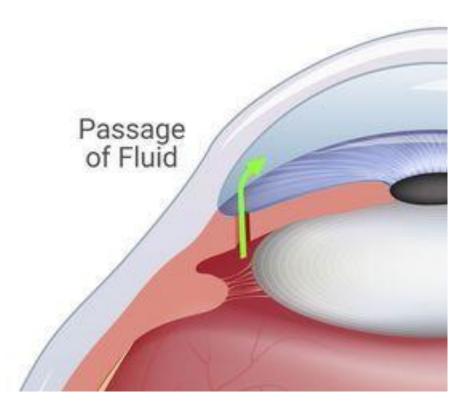
Management outline

- Lower IOP:
 - Systemically : IV Acetazolamide / Mannitol oral Acetazolamide
 - Topical Eye drops: B blockers, α agonists, Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors, pilocarpine
- Break the angle closure cycle:
 - YAG laser Iridotomy/ Surgical iridectomy
- Examine second eye and treat prophylactically

YAG Laser Iridotomy





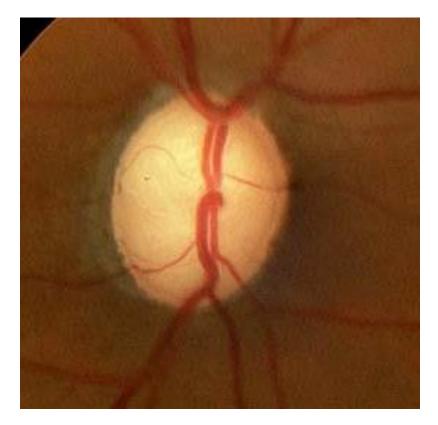


Glaucoma Diagnosis: Tips and Tools

- History
- Physical Examination
- Special Tests

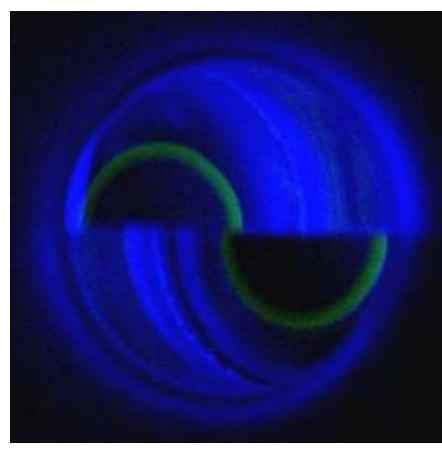
Tip One

 Every patient has glaucoma until proven otherwise



Tip Two

- Intraocular pressure is neither necessary nor sufficient for the diagnosis of glaucoma
- Intraocular pressure is, however, the most important risk factor



IOP

- The higher the pressure the higher the risk
- Goldmann technique preferred
- Tonopen, etc. if necessary



What else is important?

Slit lamp examination

- Classify type based on angle structures
- Look for signs of secondary glaucoma

Optic nerve head examination Stage disease based on ONH damage Visual field examination Stage disease based on VF damage

Slit lamp examination

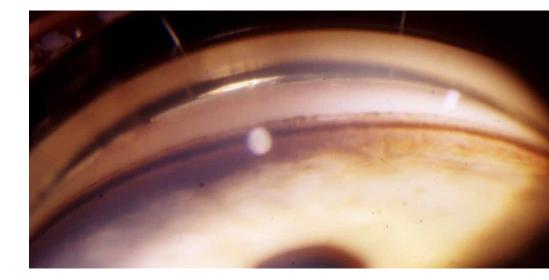
- Lids/lacrimal > Other
- Conjunctiva/
- sclera
- Cornea
- Lens

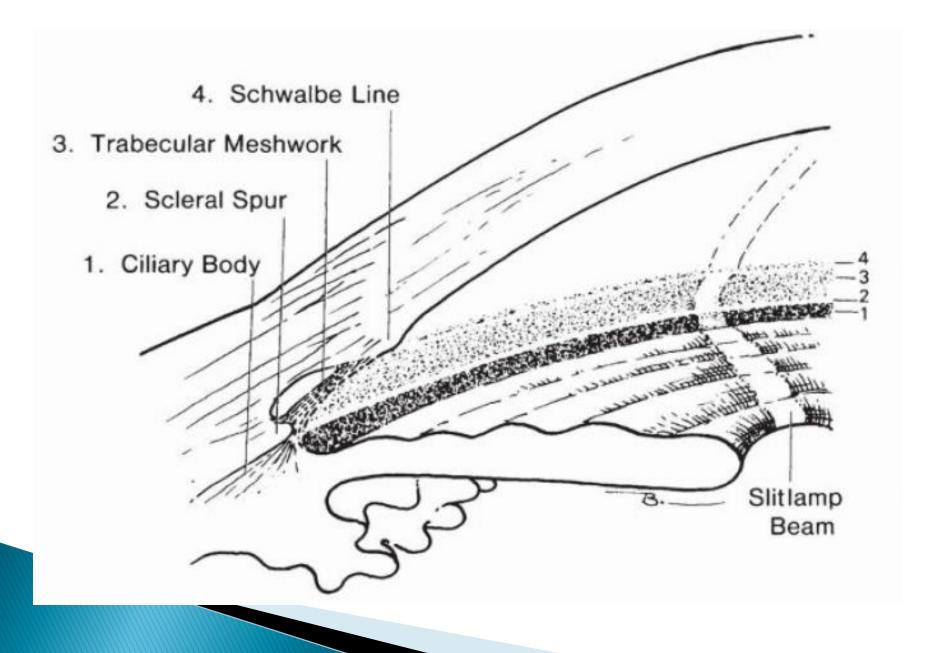
- PXE
- PDG
- NVI
- Iritis
- PI

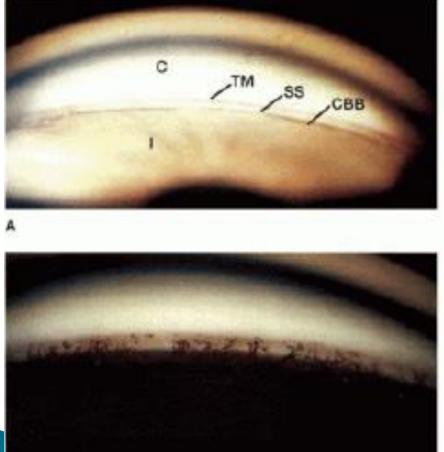


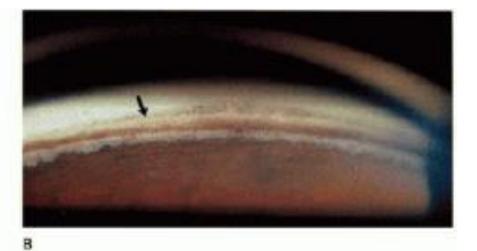
Gonioscopy

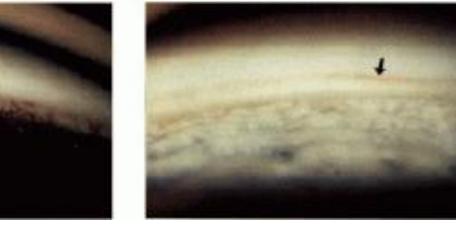
- Always performed on any patient where glaucoma is a possibility
- Classify into open vs. narrow vs. closed angle



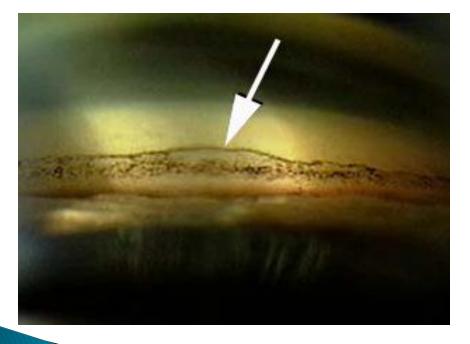


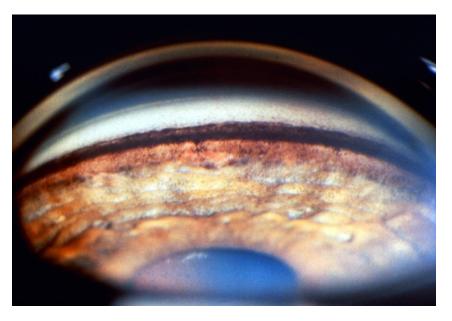






Gonioscopy- Look for secondaries

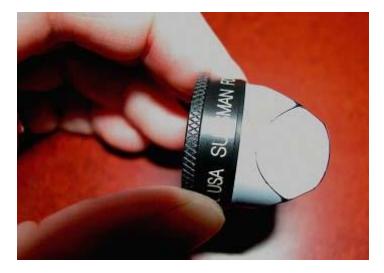




Tool One

- Four mirror lens excellent for compression gonioscopy
 - This differentiates between appositional and synechial closure
- Three mirror lens also fine





Gonioscopy lenses/mirrors



Tool Two

- Corneal thickness is becoming more and more important in glaucoma diagnosis
- Pachymetry is not, however, currently a part of the standard of care
- Prior LASIK will result in very thin central cornea



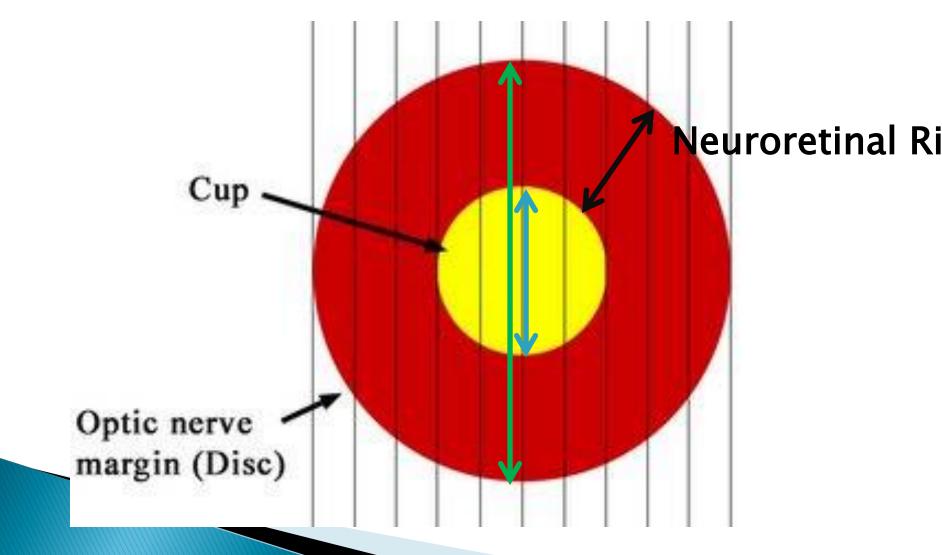


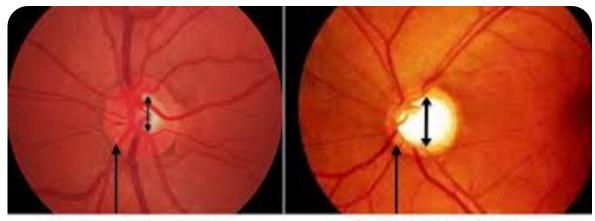
- > Thin cornea can give a falsely low IOP reading
- Thick cornea can give falsely high IOP

Optic Nerve & Retina

- State C:D ratio
- Note other findings:
 - Thin rim
 - Notch
 - Drance hemorrhage
 - \circ Peri papillary atrophy, α or β
- State relevant retinal findings:
 AMD, etc

Vertical Cup to Disc Ratio





Normal optic nerve head

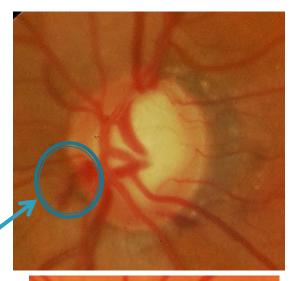
Normal optic nerve head

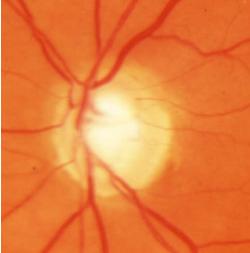
Glaucomatous cupping

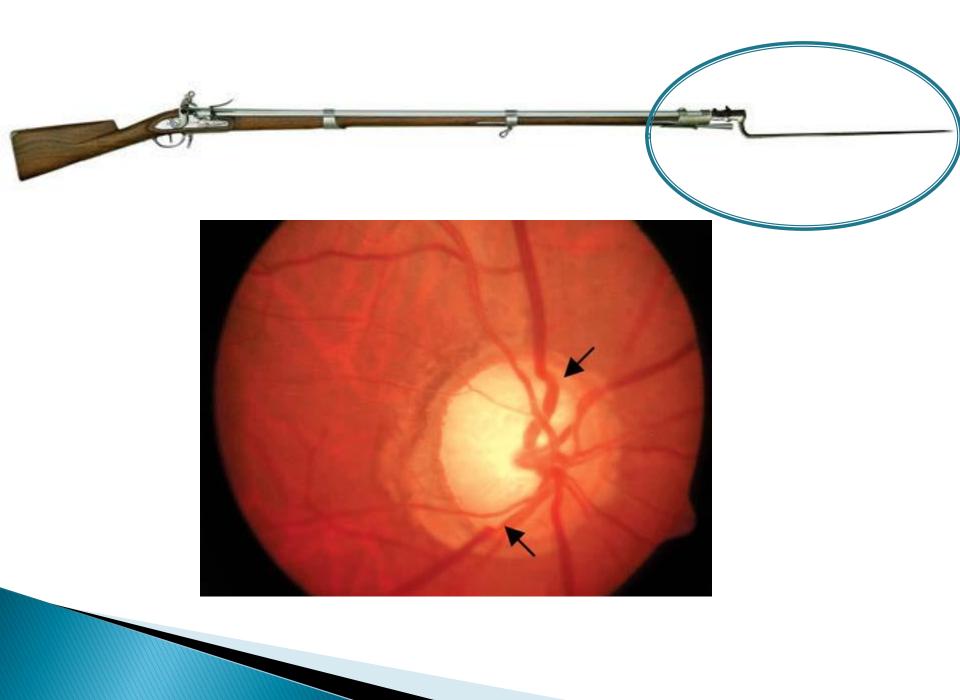
Glaucomatous cupping

Optic Nerve Head Examination

Look for: Cupping Asymmetry Notching Hemorrhages • ISNT rule





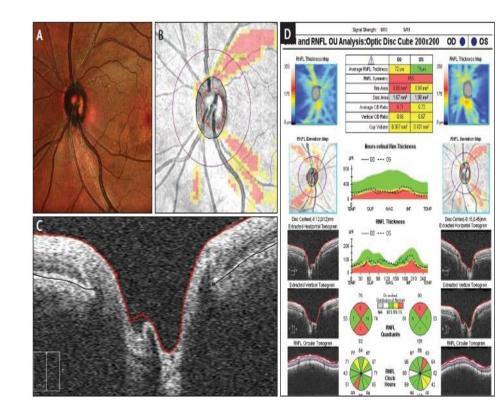


Tool Three

Stereoscopic viewing at the slit lamp with a 66D or 78D lens and a dilated pupil

Tool Four – Optic Nerve Head Imaging

- Computer aided imaging of optic nerve and/or nerve fibre layer
 - Optical coherence tomography/OCT



Tool Five -Visual Field Examination

- Assess functional damage prior to patients perception of field loss
- Assess patient's performance in relation to age matched normal database (Statpack, SITA, Octopus)

Nasal Step	-	
Paracentral	-	
Temporal Wedge		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Altitudinal		
Arcuate		
Advanced		
		Probability Symbols ∷ P < 5% ■ P < 2% ■ P < 1% ■ P < 0.5%

Tip Three

One standard text book of glaucoma lists over 100 forms Angle Closure of glaucoma Without pupil Primary Primary block block Anomalies Organize management plan deciding which subtype of glaucoma the patient has

Treatment

- Optic nerve damage in glaucoma is irreversible
- Treatment is aimed at maintaining the residual optic nerve function
- Most modifiable risk factor is IOP
- Lowering IOP Increases the chances of slowing down or stopping nerve damage.

Treatment Modalities

- Medical
- Laser
- Surgical

Medical Treatment

- Prostaglandin analogues (PGAs):
 - Once daily
 - Increases uveoscleral outflow
 - Proinflammation causing hyperemia

Side effects

Ocular

- Conjunctival hyperaemia
- Eyelash lengthening, thickening, hyperpigmentation
- Irreversible iris hyperpigmentation
- Periorbital fat loss
- deepening of the upper lid sulcus
- Hyperpigmentation of periocular skin – Common but reversible





B blockers:

• Twice daily

- Decrease aqueous production
- Contraindicated in patients with bradycardia/ heart block/ asthma

- α2 agonists :
 - Aqueous Suppressant
 - Neuroprotective
 - Can cause severe allergic reactions/ contact dermatitis



Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors

- Systemic (Acetazolamide)
- Topical
- Sulfonamide derivative/ watch out for allergy
- Aqueous suppressant

Parasympathomimetic / Cholinergic agonists

- Pilocarpine
- Increase conventional pathway outflow
- Cause miosis, myopic shift
- May increase retinal detachment risk

Laser Treatment

Increase Outflow Facility

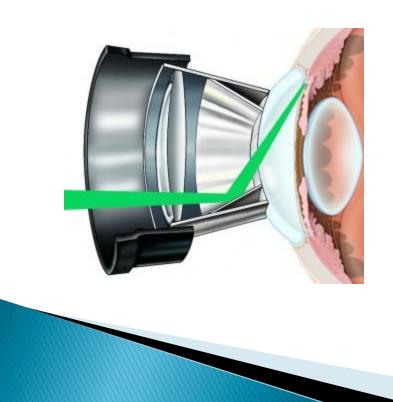
- Trabeculoplasty
- Iridotomy

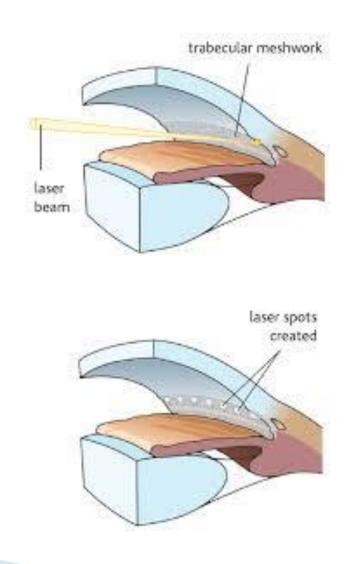
Decrease Aqueous production

Cyclodiode laser

Trabeculoplasty

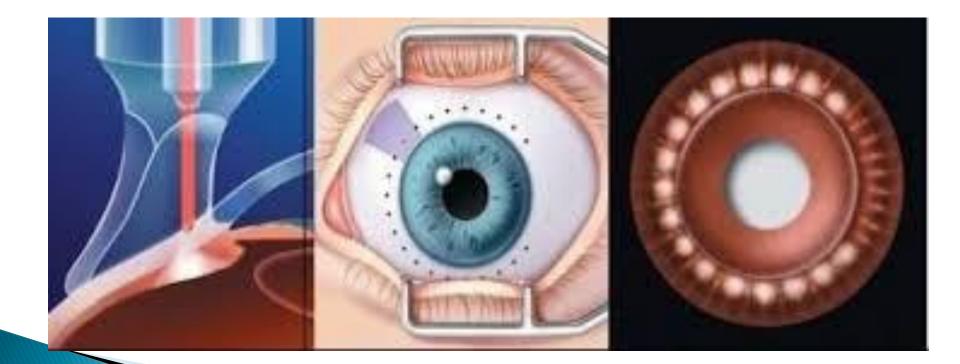
 Series of laser burns at the TM to increase outflow facility





Cyclodiode

 Transscleral Ciliary body Ablation to decrease aqueous production



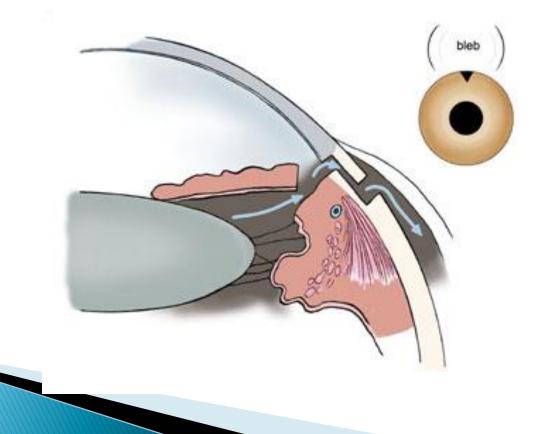


- Trabeculectomy
- Glaucoma Drainage Devices

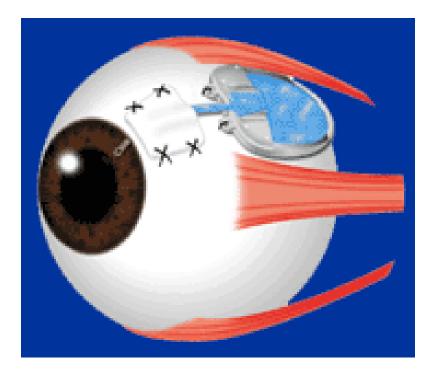


Trabeculectomy

 A fistula between the anterior chamber and the subtenon space



Glaucoma Drainage Devices



Summary

- All patients have glaucoma until proven otherwise
- Risk assessment is based on IOP, other risk factors
- Classify based on gonioscopy and other anterior segment findings
- Stage the disease based on optic nerve and field changes

The End