Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
In 1995 the predecessor of AETMIS published a report assessing the advisability of population screening for POAG. The CETS report concluded that the uncertainty surrounding the estimated benefits of screening and its high cost did not support recommending the introduction of a systematic screening program for POAG in Quebec. In recent years, the emergence of new diagnostic techniques for detecting this disease has again raised the issue of the advisability of implementing a population screening program. In this context, the Agency considered it appropriate to produce an update on this issue.

Based on the public health criteria to justify introducing a population screening program, this report begins by documenting the natural history and prevalence of the disease. It then analyzes studies on the efficacy of available treatments and diagnostic tests, presents scientific evidence on screening efficacy and information about the situation in Quebec, and finally addresses the advisability of population screening.

Authors' conclusions
AETMIS concludes that, for the time being, it is not justified to recommend introducing a population screening program for glaucoma in Quebec. From a broader public health perspective of reducing preventable blindness and of continually improving access to ophthalmology care and services, AETMIS finds that: .. opportunistic screening activities are already in place, lead to referrals to ophthalmologists and absorb specialized resources

.. the extent, effectiveness and costs of opportunistic screening activities are not known

.. some patients are at greater risk of a rapidly progressive form of glaucoma, but these risk factors are not fully known

.. case-finding scenarios (opportunistic screening) targeting at-risk individuals and combining several diagnostic tests achieve a good performance for these groups.

Project page URL
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INAHTA brief and checklist

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Address for correspondence
2021, Union Avenue, Bureau 10.083 Montreal (Quebec), H3A 2S9 CANADA Tel: +1 514 873 2563 Fax: +1 514 873 1369 Email: aetmis@aetmis.gouv.qc.ca

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