Frequency of visual field testing when monitoring patients newly diagnosed with glaucoma: mixed methods and modelling


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Citation

Authors' objectives
The primary objective of this project was to explore the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of using different monitoring intervals to detect VF progression in newly diagnosed glaucoma patients. Other objectives sought to (1) explore glaucoma patients' views and experiences of monitoring using focus groups; and (2) establish glaucoma subspecialists' attitudes regarding frequency of VF testing using a five-item questionnaire.

Authors' conclusions
Statistical modelling of VF data suggests there is strong rationale for following EGS recommendations with the primary benefit of providing better information about fast-progressing patients. Our health economic model suggested that increasing VF testing may be cost-effective (ICER was equal to £21,679), especially when accounting for gains to society. Nevertheless, many clinicians consider increased VF testing of patients impossible with current resources. In addition, patient focus groups raised concerns about the practicalities of delivery of VF tests.

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