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Abstract Information

Abstract Title: Depression and mood indicators in newly diagnosed glaucoma patients

Purpose: To assess depression and glaucoma-associated mood indicators in subjects newly diagnosed with chronic open angle glaucoma and to correlate them with visual acuity, visual fields, and self-reported visual function.

Design: Cross-sectional study

Participants: 607 newly diagnosed glaucoma patients enrolled in the Collaborative Initial Glaucoma Treatment Study (CIGTS).

Main Outcome Measures: 33-item Visual Activities Questionnaire (VAQ)-a measure of self-reported visual function, 6 items from a disease-specific Health Perceptions Index (HPI),

and 8 questions from the Center for Epidemiological Studies Depression Scale (CES-D)

Methods: Newly-diagnosed glaucoma patients enrolled in the CIGTS responded at baseline to quality-of-life interviews centrally administered by telephone. Visual acuity (VA) and visual fields (VF) were measured according to CIGTS protocol. Responses to the HPI and the CES-D were tested for correlation with to VA and VF as well as to the responses to the VAQ.

Results: VA ($\rho = -0.181$, $p = 0.002$), and VF in the better eye ($\rho = 0.139$, $p = 0.004$) were significantly correlated with patients' perception of their visual function (VAQ total score). Neither VA nor VF were significantly related to depression, anxiety, or mood indicators as measured by the HPI and CES-D. There were, however, moderate correlations (r ranging from 0.24 to 0.33, all p values ≤ 0.001) between the total VAQ score and each item on the HPI and CES-D. Both the odds ratio of reporting glaucoma-associated mood indicators and symptoms of depression increased with worsening reports of visual function, as measured by the VAQ.

Conclusion: In these newly diagnosed glaucoma patients, symptoms of depression and poor mood were related to self-reported visual function as assessed by the VAQ, but not to monocular clinical measures of visual function. Analysis of longitudinal data from the CIGTS will allow us to determine the effects of treatment of glaucoma and of progressive disease upon patient mood, anxiety, and depression.