



EARLY MANIFEST GLAUCOMA TRIAL

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EMGT was started to elucidate the effect of IOP reduction in glaucoma. It is a randomised, prospective study comparing glaucoma progression in one group of patients treated with betaxolol and ALT and an untreated control group. While firm evidence for treatment effects were lacking at the start of the study, study results now clearly document clear and positive treatment effects in all types of patients: with higher and lower IOP, less and more damage, older and younger. Progression rates vary considerably between patient groups. The randomised study design without an IOP goal, and the efficient visual field methodology with the resulting high statistical power makes it possible to directly calculate the effects of IOP reduction; these were larger than we had expected. Other unexpected findings were the very large variation of progression rates between individual patients, the large superiority of perimetry as compared to disk analysis in identifying disease progression, the increase of cataract in the treatment group, and the difference in mortality between treatment groups. Many analyses of collected data still remain, and the study is ongoing.

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