

Author(s)

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Contributing:

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Abstract Information

Abstract Title:

Symposium on non-RCT clinical research:
Diagnostic Innovations in Glaucoma Study (DIGS): A cohort study.

Purpose:

The Diagnostic Innovations in Glaucoma Study (DIGS) is a longitudinal study designed to investigate structural and functional changes in glaucoma.

Design:

Non-population based cohort study

Participants:

Ocular hypertensive patients, glaucoma suspects, and glaucoma patients are recruited from a glaucoma sub-specialty clinic. Normal subjects are recruited from the Department of Ophthalmology and community.

Main Outcome Measures:

Glaucomatous visual field defects

Methods:

Participants are tested annually with structural imaging instruments and visual function tests.

Results:

The study design and analyses to date of the ability of structural imaging instruments to detect glaucoma and predict future visual field damage will be used to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of non-population based cohort studies. Methodological issues related to studies evaluating new diagnostic tests also will be discussed.

Conclusion:

Cohort studies provide important information on the relationship between glaucomatous optic disc and visual field damage.