



What's New in Ophthalmology Today?

PREDICTING GLAUCOMA

Researchers have developed a model to identify patients at high risk of developing glaucoma. Open angle glaucoma is the most common form of glaucoma and is one of the leading cause of blindness in America.

Dr. Michael Kass, chairman at Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis) studied the findings from the landmark Ocular Hypertensive Treatment Study (OHTS). That study explored whether preventative treatment could reduce the incidence of glaucoma. Analyzing that large study, Dr. Kass was able to find five important risk factors that would help ophthalmologists predict which patients would benefit from treatment with pressure lowering drops and stave off visual loss from glaucoma and which patients would not have much benefit from the medications. These factors are age, intra-ocular pressure, cup-disc ratio, corneal thickness and pattern deviation (from the computerized visual test). We use this tool in our office.

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