Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma (POAG - Chronic)

The most common form of glaucoma is chronic or primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG) and is characterized by a slow increase in intraocular pressure (IOP) without symptoms of pain or pressure.



PLAY PICMONIC

Mechanism

Flow of Aqueous Humor Slowed
Water from Eye-fountain Slowed
This reduced outflow or stoppage of aqueous humor by obstruction leads to a slow increase in IOP. Due to a decreased trabecular meshwork, drainage channels will clog, thus increasing intraocular pressure. Ultimately, there will be damage to the optic nerve and eventual blindness.

Signs and Symptoms

Slow Onset
Snail On-switch
POAG has a slow onset unlike its counterpart primary angle-closure glaucoma (PACG) which has a rapid onset. The patient may not notice the gradual visual field loss until peripheral vision has been largely compromised.

No Pain
No Pain-sign
The patient does not experience any pain in POAG.

Tunnel Vision
Tunnel View
Untreated glaucoma leads to tunnel vision, which is the loss of peripheral vision and only a small center visual area field can be seen.

IOP 22-32mm Hg
Eye-squeezing (2)(2) Tutus to (3) Tree (2) Tutu
The normal range for IOP is between 10 to 21 mm Hg, but those with open-angle glaucoma typically have an elevated IOP reading between 22 to 32 mm Hg.

Considerations

Drug Therapy
Med-bottle
While drugs do not cure glaucoma, they can help control symptoms. Several options exist including miotics, beta adrenergic blockers, alpha adrenergic agonists, and systemic carbonic anhydrase inhibitors.

Sign up for FREE at picmonic.com