

Common of

# Neurology survival guide for ECOs

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Second Edition



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5

- Rule #1. Beware the silent neuro-ophthalmic e.g. px with 'cataracts' or 'glaucoma'
- Rule #2. Every new px complaining of blurred vision should have a confrontation, RAPD and perimetry if abnormal
- Rule #3. You can never diagnose the cause of optic nerve dysfunction just by looking at the disc





- Rule #4. All px with ACUTE optic nerve dysfunction who do not meet all the clinical diagnostic criteria for either optic neuritis or AION require urgent referral
- Rule #5. All px with CHRONIC ON dysfunction who do not meet the clinical diagnostic criteria for glaucoma require urgent referral
- Rule #6. Amblyopia is a specific diagnosis should not have ON disease and a demonstrable amblyogenic factor





- Rule #7. When looking into an eye, is the level of vision explained by visible intraocular disease. If not, is there disease behind the eye e.g. unexplained poor vision, optic atrophy, disc cupping, VF loss
- Rule #8. Compressive optic neuropathy from orbital or brain tumour can present with ANY optic disc appearance





1.8 This patient with a pituitary tumor (C) presented with visual acuity (VA) 20/200 in the left eye associated with a diffuse scotome (A). The right eye VA was 20/20 with a normal visual field (B) It is actually fairly uncommon for pituitary region tumors to present with a "textbook" bitemporal hemianopia; they more commonly cause a unilateral or bilateral optic neuropathy or a combination of optic neuropathy and chiasmal dysfunction.



- Rule #9. Just because normal looking eyes and normal RAPD take all complaints of visual loss seriously. Do not assume px has nonorganic/'functional' vision loss e.g. Streff syndrome, malingerers. Causes could be in brain.
- Rule #10. Bilateral disc swelling think papilloedema. Same day MRI and MR venography to exclude tumour and dural venous sinus thrombosis
- Rule #11. Idiopathic intracranial hypertension is diagnosed based on SPECIFIC criteria – MRI + MRV + lumbar puncture





- Rule #12. Beware of double vision don't assume longstanding. Acquired strabismus should be treated with suspicion
- Rule #13. Unexplained double vision needs to be referred for neuroimaging urgently if acute onset to rule out aneurysm, tumour or myasthenia
- Rule#14. Partial and complete CN3 palsy all require urgent MRI and MRA to exclude aneurysm. Don't assume 'ischaemic' if pupil 'spared' or diabetic. For it to be ischaemic - need to meet ALL criteria for ischaemic CN3 (Slide 31)





- Rule #15&16. All CN4 and CN6 require MRI to exclude brain tumour unless congenital (CN4) or ischaemic (CN6)
- Rule #17. Giant cell arteritis think of GCA in all over 50 yo with TIA ('amaurosis fugax'), sudden and persistent vision loss, AION ON swelling, CRAO, transient or persisting double vision or *normal fundus* (retrobulbar ischemic ON)





- Rule #18. MRI is superior to CT. Normal CT does not exclude serious disease. MRI should be requested with 'contrast' (typically gadolinium)– require specialist referral not GP
  - MRA/CTA angiography to rule out aneurysms in CN3 crises
  - MRV/CTV venography to rule out venus sinus thrombosis in papilloedema
  - Duplex doppler carotids to rule out ICA stenosis in TIA





- Rule #19: Ophthalmic emergencies
- Life threatening (in order of importance)
  - Double vision due to partial or complete CN3 palsy which aneurysm cant be excluded
  - Bilateral ON swelling due to brain tumour or dural venous sinus thrombosis
  - Unilateral or bilateral ophthalmoplegia: think acute myasthenia, pituitary bleed, cavernus sinus thrombosis, carotid-cavernous fistula or orbital cellulitis
  - Ptosis or diplopia with shortness of breath, loss of swallow reflex: think severe myasthenia
  - Ptosis with ipsilateral small but reactive pupil from horner syndrome related to acute internal carotid dissection (painful horners)





- Rule #19: continued (non-life threatening)
- Bilateral permanent sight threatening
  - Acute vision loss from GCA, pituary apoplexy or neuromyelitis
- Unilateral sight threatening
  - Acute glaucoma, endopthalmiitis, penetrating eye injury and sinus mucocele





- Rule #20: Top 3 Common mistakes
  - Not suspecting possibility of orbital or brain disease as the cause of px 'eye' complaints
  - Not performing a thorough hx and examination
  - Not referring to a neuro-ophthalmologist early and urgently when necessary





# Emergency and Urgent Definitions

- Emergency (<24h or asap)
  - <u>ring up</u> and ask to speak with the <u>registrar</u> before sending patient in <u>immediately</u>
- Urgent (24h 6 days)
  - RVEEH Cat 1A, FMC Cat 1
  - Urgent <<u>2 weeks (SA)</u> and <<u>4 weeks</u> (Vic: Cat 1B)
- Routine (>3 months)

#### 2. Clinic Timeframe Categories

The following table gives an indication of the timeframe within which patients of different acuity are expected to be seen.

Category	Definition					
Emergency	A patient whose condition is identified from referral details as having an acute sight or life threatening condition where immediate medical or surgical intervention is required					
	Discuss with the Admitting Officer in the Emergency Department – call switch on 9929 8666 – to confirm immediate referral to the Emergency Department					
Urgent: (within 1 week)	A patient whose condition is identified from referral details as having the					
Waiting list: Category 1A	potential to deteriorate quickly to the point that it may become an emergency.					
Urgent: (1 week to 30 days)	A patient whose condition is identified from referral details as having the					
Waiting list: Category 1B	potential to deteriorate quickly, with significant consequences for health and quality of life, if not managed promptly.					
Routine (30-90 days)	A patient whose condition is identified from referral details as causing some					
Waiting list: Category 2	pain, dysfunction or disability, but which is not likely to deteriorate quick become an emergency.					
Routine: (90-365 days)	Patients whose condition is identified from referral details as being unlikely					
Waiting list: Category 3	to deteriorate quickly and does not have the potential to become an emergency.					
Primary Care - not accepted	Patients whose condition is identified from referral details as requiring primary care, and not reaching the threshold criteria for the hospital's specialist services. Refer to the <u>Primary Care Management Guidelines</u> .					
	Patients over 45 years of age should have regular eye examinations with an ophthalmologist/optometrist every three years.					

IIIIUCIJ



RVEEH Primary Care guidelines 2020

### Emergency and urgent referrals (SA Health – Royal Adelaide Hospital & Victoria - RVEEH)

- Emergency by diagnosis
  - Acute angle closure glaucoma
  - Central retinal artery occlusion
  - Retinal detachment
  - Orbital cellulitis
  - Papilloedema (raised ICP)
  - Giant Cell Arteritis (AAION)
  - FB/penetrating/chem burns/trauma/transplant rejection



CALHN:

Emergency All urgent cases must be discussed with the on call ophthalmology registrar.	

https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/resources/calhn+ophthalmology+outpatient+service+information+triage+and+referral+guideline

# Neuro things that increase our index of suspicion

- Unexplained blurred vision symptoms or field loss
- Transient vision loss
- Headaches
- Double vision
- Ptosis
- Unequal pupils
- Colour vision (RG) loss









- Not just VA
  - Many present with blurry vision but relatively good VA (>6/12)
  - ONTT showed 11% presented with perfect VA (≥6/6) (Beck et al., 2003)
- Onset
  - Sudden vs gradual
  - Worse with certain activity e.g. sports, postural change
- Monocular
  - Monocular: optic neuritis/tumour/GCA/OIS/Amaurosis fugax/retinal migraine
    - Rule out intermittent AACG, dry eyes, retinal disease





- Binocular
  - Think migraine (most common)
  - Papilloedema
  - chiasmal/post-chiasmal lesions
  - neck/heart problems (embolisms/carotid dissection/vertebrobasilar insufficiency)
  - Uthoff sign (heat in MS)





- Transient monocular (<24 hours)
  - Amaurosis fugax: vision loss 5-60 min(< 1hour), age >50, vascular risk factors, normal eye and vision.
    - Immediate danger: ICA dissection (painful horner syndrome) or GCA
  - Fundus Normal, no pain, >60yo: Think of impending stroke: ICA stenosis
    - 10-20% within 90 days
    - 50% within 48 hours
    - Refer to GP for blood workup BP, diabetes, carotid doppler

# Carotid doppl

#### Predicting stroke within 48 hours using ABCD<sup>2</sup>

Table 2. ABCD<sup>2</sup> toolAge60 years or older (1 point)Blood pressureSystolic  $\geq$ 140 mmHg (1 point)Diastolic  $\geq$ 90 mmHg (1 point)Clinical featuresAny unilateral weakness (2 points)Speech impairment without weakness (1 point)Duration60 minutes or more (2 points)10–59 minutes (1 point)Diabetes mellitus (1 point)ABCD<sup>2</sup> >4 = high risk,  $\leq$ 4 = low risk (maximum is 7)<sup>23</sup>

Source: RACGP

True stroke: Face droop, Arm weakness, Speech difficulties, Time to call 000 (FAST)

### • Transient **binocular**

- Think postural hypotension in young
- Think vertebrobasilar insufficiency from atherosclerosis in elderly
- Heart disease e.g. patent foramen ovale or transient arrythmia
- Chronic (>24 hours)
  - Stroke, tumour, brain aneurysm
- Scotoma type
  - whole monocular field: think amaurosis fugax/TIA
  - scintillating 'flashes', 'wavy'/'watery', 'sparkly': think migraine
    - Usually starts centrally and expands





- Confrontation
  - Always do simultaneous finger counting (Anderson et al., 2009)
    - quicker and increases likelihood of detecting hemi-extinction (as opposed to hemianopia/neglect)

CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL OPTOMETRY INTAL INTACTOREGAL INTERSECTION INTO INTERSECTION INTO INTERSECTION INTO INTERSECTION INTO INTO INTERSECTION INTO INTO INTO INTO INTO INTO INTO	Volume 92, Issue 1 January 2009 Pages 45-48			
Rapid confrontation screening for peripheral visual field defects and extinction	 			
Andrew J Anderson, Neil H Shuey, Michael Wall	Figures References Related Information			
First published: 29 December 2008   https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1444-0938.2008.00280.x   Citations: 7	Recommended			
FindIt@Flinders  The Dr AJ Anderson Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences The University of Melbourne VIC 3010 AUSTRALIA E-mail: aaj@unimelb.edu.au	<u>Binocular summation in the peripheral</u> <u>visual field</u> Angela Whitaker, Shahina Pardhan Ophthalmic and Physiological Optics			
🗄 sections 📃 PDF 🔧 TOOLS < share	PRESENCE OF THE FIXATION POINT IN			
Abstract	<u>STANDARD PERIMETRY?</u> E. M. Mueller-Oehring, E. Kasten, D. A. Poggel, T. Schulte, B. A. Sabel			



Screening for unsuspected visual field defects should form a part of all routine eye examinations. Here we review a procedure for finger-counting confrontation screening.

European Journal of Neuroscience

- Confrontation (finger counting)
  - Poor sensitivity 35%
  - 100% specificity

#### Effectiveness of testing visual fields by confrontation

Ranjeet J Pandit, Kevin Gales, Philip G Griffiths

Many tests are used to examine visual fields by confrontation, but such methods have not been thoroughly compared with an accepted reference standard. The choice of test might affect the identification of subtle defects in the visual field. We prospectively compared seven confrontation field tests with full-threshold automated static perimetry among 138 outpatients in an eye clinic. Our primary outcome was detection of a defect in the visual field. With automated perimetry, most field defects were small or shallow. Most confrontation field tests were insensitive in the identification of field loss. The most sensitive method was examination of the central  $20^\circ$  visual field with a small red target (73% [95% Cl 63-82]). Assessment of the visual field should thus include such a test.

#### Lancet 2001; 358: 1339-40

Visual-field loss is routinely identified by testing visual fields by confrontation. Defects in the visual field are rarely

#### Pandit et al., 2001 Lancet

Automated fields	Patients*
lormal	49 (36%)
Ibnormal	89 (64%)
vrcuate scotomas†	33 (24%)
lasal steps‡	13 (9%)
Concentric constriction	11 (8%)
Central scotomas	9 (7%)
Patchy central defects	8 (6%)
lititudinal defects	6 (4%)
solated temporal defects	6 (4%)
solated nasal defects	2 (1%)
Bitemporal hemianopias	2 (1%)
otal	138 (100%

\*Number of patients with field defect in one or both eyes. One patient had an arcuate so doma in one eye, and a nasal step defect in the other. †Points missed on automated perimetry in a region corresponding to the arcuate soctoma seen in patients with glaucoma. ‡Points missed on automated perimetry in a region corresponding to the nasal step defect seen in patients with glaucoma.

Table 1: Results of automated perimetry

	True positives	False positives	True negatives	False negatives	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity	
Confrontation test Description of examiner's face	39 (28%)	0	49 (36%)	50 (36%)	44% (33-55)	100%	
Quadrant finger counting	31 (22%)	0	49 (36%)	58 (42%)	35% (25-46)	100%	sensitivity 35%
Kinetic to finger	36 (26%)	0	49 (36%)	53 (38%)	40% (30-51)	100%	,
Kinetic to 20 mm white target	43 (31%)	0	49 (36%)	46 (33%)	48% (38-59)	100%	
Kinetic to 20 mm red target	50 (36%)	0	49 (36%)	39 (28%)	56% (45-67)	100%	
Red colour comparison	53 (38%)	0	49 (36%)	36 (26%)	60% (49-70)	100%	
Central field test to 5 mm red target	65 (47%)	0	49 (36%)	24 (17%)	73% (63-82)	100%	
All tests com bined	68 (49%)	0	49 (36%)	21 (15%)	76% (66-85)	100%	

Table 2: Effectiveness of confrontation field tests\*





### **Visual Field Defects**

- Perimetry
  - Most commonly pituitary tumour
    - Binasal fibre death leads to classic bow tie atrophy







Jeong et al., 2016 Neuroophthalmology

- Arcuate defects
  - Seen in multiple optic disc conditions
    - Optic neuritis
    - NA+A AION
    - Pituitary tumours (asymmetrical)
    - Crowded disc/ disc-at-risk
    - Optic disc drusen
  - For diagnosis of glaucoma, function must match structure
  - This includes doing 10-2 for Mac GC-IPL/GCC loss in the absence of RNFL loss



#### **Zeiss Structure-Function report**



#### • Papilloedema – beware of these VFs

Central 24-2 Threshold Test



### Headaches

- Have they had a prior diagnosis of migraine when they were <40 years old</li>
- Is it suggestive of raised ICP?
  - Worse in AM (supine position all night)
    - Rule out obstructive sleep apnoea
  - Nausea/vomiting
  - Pulsatile tinnitus
- GH/PMH
  - Obese women of childbearing age (3xFs)
  - Hx of cancer, DVT
  - Medication causing pseudotumour cerebri





# Pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> nerve palsy

- Why do we care?
  - Most common cause is ischaemic
    - The most benign cause and often self limiting (except GCA)
    - Think atherosclerosis, diabetes, hypertension and GCA
  - Up to 1/3 due to expanding/compressive aneurysm at junction of ICA and PCA
    - Can kill px within hours to days if ruptured hence regarded as most urgent of all ophthalmic emergencies







# Pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> nerve palsy flowchart



UNIVE



Courtesy of Dr Mallika Prem Senthil Ophthalmologist Flinders Health2GC

# Pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> nerve palsy flowchart





Ischaemic 3<sup>rd</sup> nerve palsy (must have the following)

- Time course: sudden diplopia or unilateral ptosis
- Ptosis becomes complete\* within 24 hours
- Palsy must be complete\*
- No other nerve involvement, other side not involved
- No RAPD, normal confrontation
- No pain and no 'pins & needles'

\*this is because aneurysmal partial third nerve palsies may be "pupil sparing" early in their evolution



# Pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup> nerve palsy

- Other causes
  - Brain tumours esp pituitary tumours invading cavernous sinus
  - Raised ICP leading to uncal hernation
  - Infection (viral/postviral) and Inflammation (MS)
  - Trauma





### Imaging a suspicious optic nerve











# Imaging a suspicious optic nerve

- Optic Disc Drusen Consortium key concepts
  - Dilate px
  - Always use Enhanced Depth Imaging (EDI-OCT)
    - First described by Spaide et al., 2008
    - Penetrates anterior portion of optic disc, allows visualisation of deeper structures
  - Volume scan of optic disc Radial scan 6 lines 'star' with EDI
    - Alternatively: HD 5 line raster with EDI
  - Perform RNFL thickness scan don't look for thinning, look for thickening
  - Perform macula scan rule out macular disease&neuro disease
     Flinders
     Inders
     College of Nursing









https://www.reviewofoptometry.com/article/ro1217-when-things-get-tense
#### **ODDC** imaging recommendations

Before scanning	Ensure optimal conditions
	a. Dilate pupils before examination
	<li>b. Measure corneal curvature and refraction for later transverse magnification adjustment (to ensure accurate measurements)*</li>
Acquisition	Visualize deeper structures
	a. Use SD-OCT in EDI mode
	<ul> <li>b. If no SD-OCT is available, adjust the distance from the OCT apparatus to the eye to get an inverted view of the optic nerve head for better visualization of deeper structures</li> </ul>
	c. Type in corneal curvature value and refraction in the operator system*
Dense optic nerve head scan	Identification, quantification and classification of ODD
	a. Use EDI mode or invert scan
	<ul> <li>b. Select high-resolution acquisition if possible</li> </ul>
	c. Center a scan area of only $15 \times 10^{\circ}$ over the optic disc
	d. Scan with 97 sections in that area (30 µm between each scan)
	e. Average at least 30 frames
	f. Perform the volume scan in both horizontal and vertical directions
Radial optic nerve head scan	Assessment of scleral canal size
	a. Use EDI mode or invert scan
	<li>b. Select 20° 6-line radial scan (star pattern scan)</li>
	c. Center scan at optic disc
Peripapillary scan	Evaluation of RNFL thickness
	a. Deselect EDI mode (if on)
	<li>b. Select 12° peripapillary scan (circle scan)</li>
	c. Center scan at optic disc
Macula scan	Exclude macular pathology
	a. Deselect EDI mode (if on)
	<li>b. Center a scan area of 20 × 20° over macula.</li>
	c. Scan with at least 25 sections (240 μm between each scan)
	d. Average at least 9 frames
Autofluorescence	Identification of autofluorescence positive ODD
E	a. Center the scan at the optic disc
	b. Average 100 frames





#### EDI-OCT makes optic disc drusen visible

#### Volume scan (no EDI)







Yong et al., 2018 J Neuro-Ophthalmology

#### EDI-OCT makes optic disc drusen visible

#### Volume scan (with EDI)







Yong et al., 2018 J Neuro-Ophthalmology

## Fundus autofluorescence (FAF)













### Multimodal imaging + ultrasound







Ultrasound a-scan remains the gold standard for optic disc drusen







#### **Diagnosis: ONHD**

ONH drusen appear as hyporeflective on OCT

- White arrow heads
- White arrow + yellow arrow
- Blue arrows = BV artefacts
- Red arrows = buried large drusen













**Diagnosis: ONHD** 

ON drusen with pore core signal (dark) but in this case the presence of **conglomerates** of multiple small ON drusen gives rise to hyperflective foci













Diagnosis: ONHD











Is this Lumpy Bumpy appearance?







Diagnosis: PAPILLOEDEMA

Is this Lumpy Bumpy appearance? NO. Internal contours are smooth.





48







subretinal hyporeflective space (SHYPS) + lazy V sign??







Diagnosis: PAPILLOEDEMA







subretinal hyporeflective space (SHYPS) + lazy V sign

Is seen only when standard OCT is used Artefact from thickened RNFL







subretinal hyporeflective space (SHYPS) + lazy V **DISAPPEARS on EDI** 







Palmer et al., 2018 Neuro-Ophthalmol





Journal of American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus Volume 23, Issue 4, August 2019, Page e33



# Utility of the OCT lazy V sign in diagnosing optic nerve edema in a pediatric population

Hilliary E. Inger, Hersh Varma, Mea A. Weaver, Catherine O. Jordan, Rachel E. Reem, Mary Lou McGregor, Shawn C. Aylward, David L. Rogers

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https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaapos.2019.08.115

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#### Introduction

A subretinal hyporeflective space between the sensory retina and the RPE/choriocapillaris, known as the "lazy V," has been described on optical coherence tomography (OCT) in patients with optic nerve edema (ONE). The purpose of this study is to determine if the lazy V can distinguish pediatric ONE from optic nerve head drusen (ONHD) and determine if it is visible at all grades of ONE.

#### Methods

Spectral-domain OCT optic nerve scans of 83 eyes with ONE and 117 eyes with ONHD were collected retrospectively. Four masked pediatric ophthalmologists independently reviewed the images for the presence of the lazy V.



N = 83 (Optic disc oedema/papilloedema) N = 117 (ODD)

Lazy V sign for optic disc oedema detection: Sensitivity = 54% Specificity = 63%



# Describe the features (do's and don'ts)



Diagnosis: PAPILLOEDEMA







Don't use lazy V sign
 Don't use SHYPS



# Describe the features (do's and don'ts)



Diagnosis: PAPILLOEDEMA







- 1. Posterior bulging of the RPE-Bruch complex
- 2. Thickening of the RNFL



#### What is common between these images?







## What is common between these images?



Peripapillary hyperreflective ovoid mass-like structure (PHOMS)

• Once thought to be a key sign of ON drusen, represents the drusen itself or the precursor







## What is common between these images?



#### ONHD

#### papilloedema

#### papilloedema

ONHD

PHOMS now thought to represent displacement of RNFL axons, Not the actual ON drusen itself. Whether it's a precursor still up for debate.. Because its seen very often in ONHD





# PHOMS are simply RNFL fibres herniated due to axoplasmic stasis

Peripapillary Hyper-reflective Ovoid Mass-like Structure (PHOMS): An Optical Coherence Tomography Marker of Axoplasmic Stasis in the **Optic Nerve Head** 

SUBSCRIBED

Fraser, J. Alexander MD; Sibony, Patrick A. MD; Petzold, Axel MD, PhD; Thaung, Caroline MB, ChB, DPhil: Hamann, Steffen MD, PhD <u>Author Information</u> ~ Section Editor(s): Costello, Fiona MD, FRCP(C); Prasad, Sashank MD





Alexander et al., 2021 J Neuro-Ophthal



## Imaging a suspicious optic nerve

- Summary
  - Straight lines = BV artefact/shadowing
  - Always use Enhanced Depth Imaging (EDI-OCT)
  - Volume/3D scan alone is **not enough** (pre-tester/optom asst)
    - must do radial or raster in addition
  - Optic disc drusen HYPO/BLACK, hyper/bright superior margin
  - Papilloedema SHYPS, Lazy V and PHOMS not good anymore use RPE bowing and RNFL thickness



