

Asia Pacific Glaucoma Guidelines Second Edition

The second edition of the Asia Pacific Glaucoma Guidelines (APGG2) were launched at the joint SEAGIG/AACGC meeting in Seoul, Korea, on 26 September 2008, almost 5 years after the launch of the first edition in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2003. To update the guidelines, members of the Working Group met on several occasions to discuss the amendments required and worked closely with the Extended Working Group to provide the most up-to-date information. The updated text was then appraised by the International Review Committee.

The APGG2 are structured in a similar way to the first edition of the APGG, with a brief introduction to *Epidemiology of Glaucoma in Asia*, followed by Section 1: *Assessment*, Section 2: *Treatment*, Section 3: *Follow-up*, and Section 4: *Appendices*. A new chapter *Frequently Asked Questions* has been added to Section 3: *Follow-up*. The goal was to retain a straightforward user-friendly accessible series of resources for Asian ophthalmologists, taking into account the diversity of the region and cultural and ethnic differences. The bullet point format is intended to make the information clear for readers whose first language is not English.

Improvement and expansion

Each chapter of the APGG2 has been improved and expanded. The chapter on *Epidemiology of Glaucoma in Asia* shows the importance of the disease in the SEAGIG region, which is a diverse area with great variation in genetic and environmental factors. Angle closure rates vary throughout the region, but are much higher in Asia than in the rest of the world. Glaucoma management in the region needs to accommodate this diversity.

Improvements to the chapter on *Patient Assessment* include a new optic disc examination flowchart, a table of percentile values for cup-disc ratio according to disc size, new data for disc hemorrhage, and information from the World Glaucoma Association consensus on optic disc imaging.

The next chapter is *Risk Categories and Treatment Targets*, which aims to enable clinicians to categorize patients according to their risk for visual impairment from glaucoma, and to individualize the treatment targets. The chapter has been updated to include a table of risk factors for glaucoma development and progression. Target pressure can be set

according to risk category, and several ways in which target pressure can be used in clinical practice are listed.

The chapter on *Initiation of Treatment* has been updated to include redefined mechanisms that elevate intraocular pressure and simplified mechanisms for angle closure, which are highlighted in one of the many boxed sections. The question of when to initiate treatment has been expanded according to the risks for progression or for conversion to glaucoma. Additional information on treating the mechanisms of glaucoma has been included.

The chapter on *Medical Treatment* remains a cornerstone of the guidelines, and has been reformatted to increase the user-friendliness of the information provided. This chapter is presented in a comprehensive format for easy reference in the office.

The main addition to the chapter on *Laser Treatment* is a section on laser suture lysis. Other improvements include placement of the laser parameters in boxed sections for ready reference; importantly, the laser parameters are modified for Asian eyes. Information about selective laser trabeculoplasty (SLT) has been included, with a table highlighting the differences between SLT and argon laser trabeculoplasty. The indications for iridotomy have been modified.

The *Surgery* chapter includes updated information on the use of antimetabolites and complications of glaucoma drainage device surgery. A new section on non-penetrating surgery has been added, as well as a section on lens extraction for angle closure glaucoma.

In the chapter on *Follow-up*, the aims of follow-up have been expanded, and the process now includes retinal nerve fiber layer imaging as this is becoming more widespread within the region. There is a new table to show the timing of follow-up according to the extent of damage. Quality of life issues are discussed and a new Appendix has been added to show the Glaucoma Quality of Life-15 Questionnaire.

The chapter on *Screening* has been updated to include clear definitions of screening terms, a table to show the differences between screening and diagnosis, and key examination techniques for glaucoma screening. The title of this chapter

has changed from *Case Detection* in the first edition, in line with the new information offered.

Frequently Asked Questions is a new chapter, which has been designed to answer the most important questions about glaucoma. The questions are based on each of the chapters in the guidelines. Some of the answers may be controversial as they address topical issues, but may stimulate further debate.

There are several new *Appendices* covering treatment of childhood glaucoma; treatment during pregnancy and lactation; systemic medications that may induce angle closure; principles

The Asia Pacific Glaucoma Guidelines Second Edition are available from the SEAGIG website at: www.seagig.org. The guidelines are also available in CD-ROM format, which contains the abstracts of all the references cited in the guidelines. For further information, please e-mail to: editor@seagig.org.

of management of secondary glaucoma; examples of imaging devices; and the Glaucoma Quality of Life-15 questionnaire. The pre-existing appendices have been updated to include more detailed information and improved illustrations.

In summary

It is hoped that the APGG2 will continue to increase awareness of glaucoma and update glaucoma knowledge, thereby reducing visual disability in the region. The guidelines are intended to provide a rational basis for appropriate individual glaucoma management in a cost-effective manner in a mutually supportive community. APGG2 is not intended to be a text book, but has been designed to complement and facilitate access to information. The focus is a patient-oriented approach, with which to guide people with glaucoma through appropriate assessment and care.

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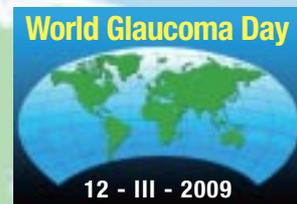
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World Glaucoma Day 2009

12 March 2009, Global



The second World Glaucoma Day will be held on 12 March 2009. World Glaucoma Day is a joint global initiative of the World Glaucoma Association and the World Glaucoma Patient Association. The intention of WGD is to increase community awareness of glaucoma and of the need to have regular eye checks, thereby permitting earlier detection and avoidance of what should be preventable visual disability.

The World Glaucoma Association and the World Glaucoma Patient Association will provide resources to assist local activities, including newspaper articles, radio and television coverage, glaucoma 'screening' campaigns in public places, and 'open-door' days at glaucoma clinics and departments of ophthalmology.

For further information, and to participate, visit the website at: www.wgday.org/