

Challenges to detect glaucomatous visual field loss with pupil perimetry

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Abstract: We evaluated the pattern deviation of pupil fields to differentiate a glaucomatous damage using the head-mounted perimeter “imo”. Thirty-four eyes of 26 glaucoma patients (mean age, 55.1 years) were examined. The pattern deviation (85th percentile) of pupil fields was calculated from the difference between age-matched normal and abnormal percentage pupil constriction. Consequently, glaucomatous damages were remarkably distinguished from the normal pupil fields using the pattern deviation of the imo.

Keywords: pupil field, glaucoma, pattern deviation

Introduction

Most of the current visual field tests are based on subjective rather than objective responses. Therefore, the accuracy and reliability of these tests often depend on the degree of the patients' cooperation. Pupil perimetry is becoming more common as an objective method to evaluate visual fields using pupillary response.^{1–3} However, the usefulness remains unclear due to the large data variability among pupil samples, anatomical differences of cells and pathways of visual field and pupillary response.

The head-mounted perimeter “imo” (CREWT Medical Systems, Tokyo, Japan) can simultaneously record the pupillary responses during target presentation.^{4–6} In our prior study,⁴ a quite flat age dependence was obtained in the normative pupillary response by age, and the response was consistent with the distribution densities and receptive fields of cells as it was with visual field sensitivity. Pupil fields of the imo generally correspond to the visual fields with the Humphrey Field Analyzer (HFA) (Carl Zeiss Meditec, Dublin, CA, USA) in hemianopsia and glaucoma patients.^{5,6} However, some glaucoma patients have a poor correlation.⁶ The aim of the study is to evaluate the pattern deviation of pupil fields to differentiate a glaucomatous damage.

Materials and methods

The definite criteria used for defining glaucoma and the details about the age-matched control subjects considered for the calculations were provided by Totsuka et al⁶ and Asakawa et al⁴, respectively. The inclusion criteria require a pupil size of at least 3 mm without dilation to obtain good-pupillary response. The visual fields were measured with the HFA 24–2 and 10–2 programs. Subjects with more than 15% of false-positive and 33% of false-negative responses were excluded. Fixation loss responses were also excluded.

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Thirty-four eyes of 26 glaucoma patients, ranging in age from 38 to 69 years (mean age, 55.1 years) were examined. Glaucomatous eyes were classified into 3 stages using the Hodapp-Anderson-Parrish grading scale (12 early, 13 moderate, and 9 severe eyes).⁷ There were cases of normal-tension glaucoma in 13 eyes of 10 patients and of primary open-angle glaucoma in 21 eyes of 16 patients. The tenets of the Declaration of Helsinki for research involving human subjects were followed, and written informed consent was obtained. The protocol was approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee of Kitasato University (No. B17-031).

The outline for the pupil field testing with imo has previously been described in detail.⁴⁻⁶ The measurement conditions were set to a Goldmann size V target, a target luminance of 10,000 apostilbs (asb), equivalent to 0 decibels on the HFA scale and a background luminance of 31.4 asb. Targets were presented for 1 second at each of the 36 test points. Percentage pupil constriction was then automatically calculated with the following equation: (initial pupil size before light stimulus – minimal pupil size after light stimulus)/(initial pupil size before light stimulus) × 100 (%).

Based on our previous study,⁸ in the 36 test points, the sensitivity of the seventh highest point when compared with the normal value was used as the standard degree of sensitivity for the entire visual field. The pattern deviation (85th percentile) of the pupil field was calculated as a value representing the difference between age-matched normal and abnormal percentage pupil constriction. Probability plots were expressed as: ■25% black ($P < 10\%$), ■50% black ($P < 5\%$), ■75% black ($P < 2\%$), ■100% black ($P < 1\%$). The detection rate of abnormal points (%) (less than $P < 10\%$ of imo/less than $P < 5\%$ of HFA) was then evaluated in correspondence to the HFA 24–2 and 10–2 test points.

The detection rate of abnormal points of each glaucoma severity was compared using one-way analysis of variance, with the Scheffe test for post hoc comparisons. A p -value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results

Typical results are shown in Figure 1. Glaucomatous damage, even localized defects were distinguished from the normal test points by use of a pattern deviation. There were significant differences between the glaucoma severity in the detection rate of abnormal points (temporal area: early vs moderate $P = 0.8922$, early vs severe $P = 0.9999$;

nasal area: early vs moderate $P = 0.0941$, early vs severe $P = 0.0007$) but not with the glaucoma types (Table 1).

Discussion

In previous studies, Yoshitomi et al⁹ and Schmid et al¹⁰ reported that early glaucoma with a localized visual field loss has a poor correspondence between the subjective standard automated perimetry and objective pupil perimetry. One of the positive aspects is that pupil perimetry would more accurately reflect retinal nerve fiber layer loss in early glaucoma.¹¹ However, Tatsumi et al¹² reported that the log-scaled relative afferent pupillary defect (RAPD) was associated with the structural loss of retinal nerve fibers and/or ganglion cells. Adhikari et al¹³ also examined the amplitude of pupil constriction in the glaucoma severity, and they reported that the moderate to severe glaucoma patients exhibited lower amplitudes of pupil constriction. In this study, we could not be performed conventional pupillary evaluation (e.g., swinging flashlight test and infrared pupillography). To overcome this limitation, we will evaluate the presence and grades of a RAPD among the glaucoma patient subsets in subsequent studies.

On the other hand, the pattern deviation has been widely accepted as an analytic method for identifying abnormal test points of HFA. The probability plots emphasize localized loss after adjustment for age.¹⁴ The pattern deviation of HFA as it calculates general height from the total deviation by considering multiple factors including refractive error, pupil diameter and diffuse medial opacity. Our approach may not be comparable with the pattern deviation of HFA. However, this is the first report the possibility of using a pattern deviation obtained from the pupil field testing with imo as a diagnostic strategy for detecting glaucomatous damage. Consequently, our results demonstrated that the difference between an age-matched normal and abnormal pupil value indicated a localized glaucomatous damage in pupil perimetry of the imo.

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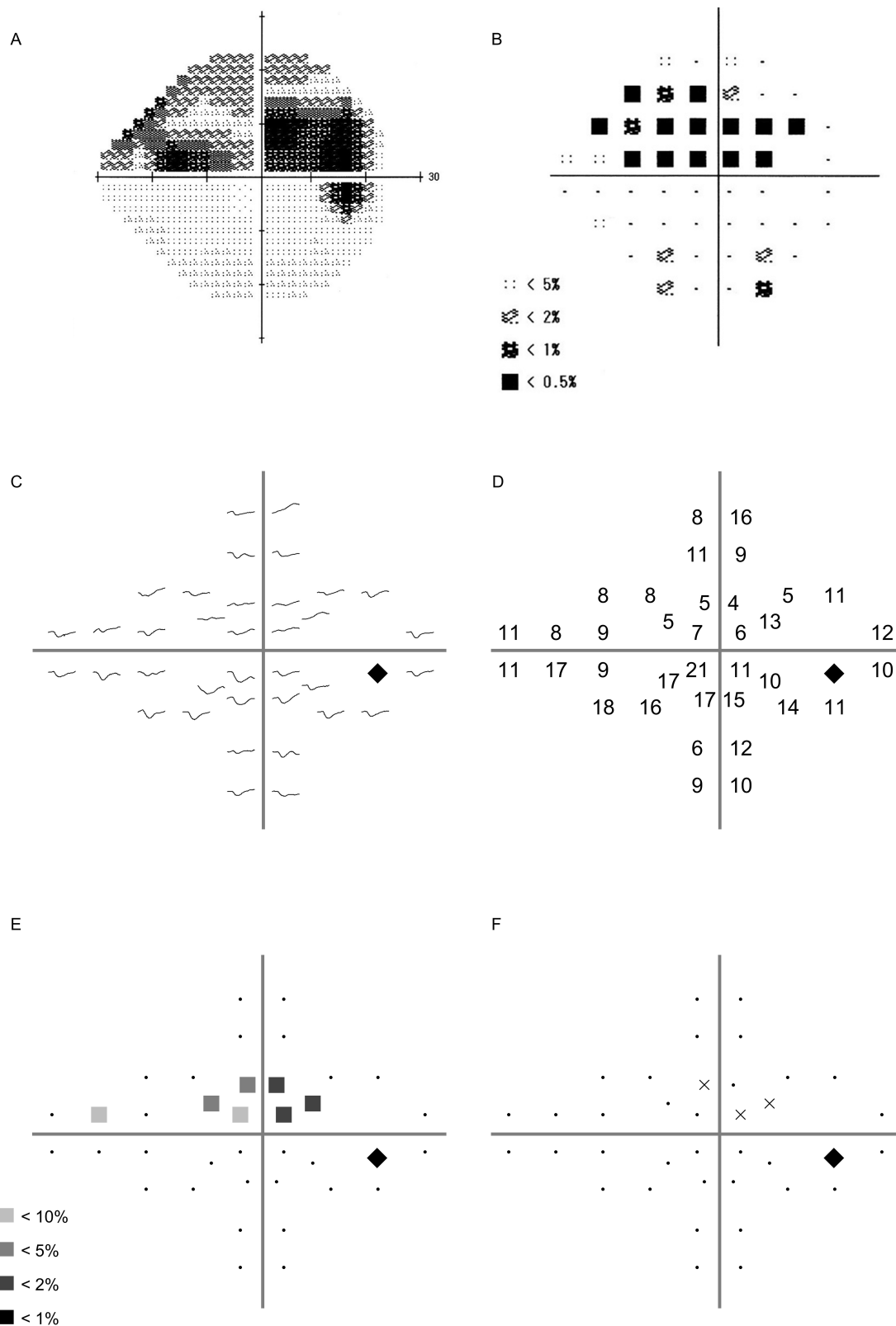


Figure 1 Measured results of glaucoma patient (67-years male, primary open-angle glaucoma, Mean deviation -8.90 dB, Pattern standard deviation 8.83 dB, Visual field index 74%). (A) Gray scale of Humphrey Field Analyzer (HFA), (B) Pattern deviation of HFA, (C) Pupil waveforms, (D) Percentage pupil constriction (%), (E) Pattern deviation (■25% black; P<10%, ■50% black; P<5%, ■75% black; P<2%, ■100% black; P<1%), (F) Subjective response (It can be simultaneously recorded if the patient pushes a button).

Table I Detection rate of abnormal points in each test point

	Test points		Superior /Inferior	Early	Moderate	Severe
	Horizontal	Vertical		Detection rate of abnormal points (imo/HFA)		
Temporal	1°	7°	S	43 (3/7)	57 (4/7)	63 (5/8)
			I	0 (0/1)	83 (5/6)	17 (1/6)
	3°	3°	S	0 (0/3)	57 (4/7)	43 (3/7)
			I	0 (0/1)	0 (0/2)	33 (1/3)
		15°	S	20 (1/5)	50 (4/8)	25 (2/8)
			I	0 (0/3)	0 (0/6)	0 (0/5)
		21°	S	0 (0/2)	29 (2/7)	17 (1/6)
			I	0 (0/2)	0 (0/5)	0 (0/3)
	7°	5°	S	86 (6/7)	50 (4/8)	29 (2/7)
			I	0 (0/0)	40 (2/5)	0 (0/4)
	9°	9°	S	0 (0/2)	22 (2/9)	25 (2/8)
			I	0 (0/2)	20 (1/5)	25 (1/4)
	15°		S	100 (1/1)	17 (1/6)	40 (2/5)
			I	100 (1/1)	0 (0/0)	0 (0/3)
	21°	3°	S	0 (0/1)	0 (0/2)	25 (1/4)
			I	0 (0/2)	0 (0/1)	33 (1/3)
Total			30 (12/40)	35 (29/84)	26 (22/84)	
Nasal	1°	7°	S	63 (5/8)	71 (5/7)	88 (7/8)
			I	33 (1/3)	57 (4/7)	29 (2/7)
	3°	3°	S	71 (5/7)	75 (6/8)	14 (1/7)
			I	0 (0/1)	80 (4/5)	60 (3/5)
		15°	S	33 (1/3)	29 (2/7)	44 (4/9)
			I	0 (0/1)	33 (2/6)	40 (2/5)
		21°	S	0 (0/3)	0 (0/6)	29 (2/7)
			I	33 (1/3)	0 (0/4)	0 (0/7)
	7°	5°	S	22 (2/9)	40 (4/10)	50 (4/8)
			I	0 (0/6)	71 (5/7)	75 (3/4)
	9°	9°	S	0 (0/3)	25 (2/8)	75 (6/8)
			I	50 (2/4)	17 (1/6)	60 (3/5)
	15°	3°	S	0 (0/5)	31 (4/13)	63 (5/8)
			I	0 (0/3)	43 (3/7)	67 (4/6)
		9°	S	0 (0/6)	20 (2/10)	63 (5/8)
			I	0 (0/4)	25 (2/8)	50 (2/4)

(Continued)

Table I (Continued).

	Test points		Superior /Inferior	Early	Moderate	Severe
	Horizontal	Vertical		Detection rate of abnormal points (imo/HFA)		
	21°	3°	S	13 (1/8)	31 (4/13)	38 (3/8)
			I	33 (2/6)	30 (3/10)	38 (3/8)
	27°		S	17 (1/6)	31 (4/13)	38 (3/8)
			I	20 (1/5)	0 (0/8)	57 (4/7)
Total			23 (22/94)	35 (57/163)	48 (66/137)	

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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