



HAUTE AUTORITÉ DE SANTÉ

Glaucoma: screening and early diagnosis – problems and outlook in France

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Aim

To summarize and comment on the current status of key clinical and economic data on glaucoma. The report reviews data on the history and epidemiology of glaucoma, problems posed by diagnosis and treatment in France, the relevance of screening, and health professionals' expectations.

Results and conclusions

Assessment of the possible implementation of a national screening programme for glaucoma is not relevant in view of the current state of knowledge and medical practice in France. There is no single specific diagnostic test for early-stage glaucoma. Several tests would have to be used, complicating the screening strategy. Furthermore, the value of these tests has not been assessed in either the general population or a targeted population.

Methods

The report was produced in 4 months by a method not previously used by HAS. Studies were selected and reviewed according to the same evidence-based rules as for standard assessments but the review was restricted to studies of a high level of evidence. Documentary research focused on documents from agencies and/or learned societies, systematic reviews, meta-analyses and French or European observational studies. The opinion of 11 health professionals from different professional backgrounds and regions of France, who are concerned by glaucoma, was requested in a questionnaire. The report was submitted to members of the *Commission d'évaluation des stratégies de santé*¹ and to the HAS Board, to establish the issue(s) that the assessment report on glaucoma scheduled for 2007 (HAS' work programme) should address.

Looking ahead

The following actions are needed according to the data in the present report:

- carry out an epidemiology study to estimate the prevalence of glaucoma (by type of glaucoma) and raised intraocular pressure in France;
- identify and describe the risk factors (characteristics and threshold values of abnormality) that have to be looked for, in order to define a target population (by type of glaucoma) who would benefit from an improved early diagnosis strategy;
- establish and standardise diagnostic and management strategies for glaucoma;
- establish the sequence of tests to be used in the diagnostic strategy and whether they are appropriate for screening.

HAS proposes that guidelines should be developed on the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma in France. They should also cover follow-up of patients with either raised intraocular pressure or confirmed glaucoma.

¹ Committee for Healthcare Strategy Assessment