Mimickers of glaucoma		
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PART 1: Primary optic atrophy

### Primary optic atrophy

• Optic atrophy without swelling preceding the atrophy

### Dx include:

- Compressive
- Retrobulbar optic neuritis (\*)
- ONH drusen
- Toxic/nutritional
- Traumatic
- Hereditary optic neuropathy (\*), dx of exclusion



### Retrobulbar optic neuritis

- Remember... this has no swelling visible on retinal examination despite inflammation
  - (Or may just be very subtly visible... 1/3 of cases of papillitis)
- Appreciable on other clinical signs/symptoms, e.g. pain on eye movements, contrast sensitivity/perimetric loss, colour vision loss
- Pathophysiology: inflammation of the optic nerve











### Retrobulbar optic neuritis and multiple sclerosis

- Do not forget the peripheral retinal examination
- Periphlebitis thought to be analogous to MS-related inflammatory events occurring in the brain (*Hogan et al 1971*)





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### Optic nerve head drusen

- Pathophysiology: unknown; degenerative axonal byproducts? Calcific deposition in mitochondria and their subsequent coalescence
  - Natural history varies: from buried to manifest/surfaced drusen
- Probably under-diagnosed clinical prevalence up to 25%



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# <section-header> Diateral and typically dosedependent Bilateral and typically dosedependent Typically identified from medical history Alcohol Antibiotics Anti-malarials, e.g. hydroxychloroquia Tuberculosis Anti-arrhythmic, e.g. amiodarone Sildenafil Heavy metals, e.g. lead



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### Quick T/F quiz

- Retrobulbar optic neuritis cannot be a primary optic atrophy due to intraretinal swelling
- Damage to the nerve due to intraocular surgery often results in a very ordered and clean optic nerve and retinal nerve fibre layer defect
- Advanced glaucoma is often accompanied by attenuation of the major retinal arteries and vasculature



### Secondary optic atrophy Occurs "secondary" to longstanding swelling of the ONH General pathophysiology: primary condition that causes swelling and then physical impingement on the nerve fibres Examples: Chronic papilloedema Papillitis (diabetic, viral, Idiopathic) Anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (AION) Compressive lesions in the anterior orbit (e.g. ON sheath meningioma)





### Papilloedema – Frisen grading

Grade	Rim	Parapapillary features
0	Slight blur of N, S, I inversely proportional to disc diameter	No tortuosity; intact; none (or rarely) obscuration of a major blood vessel
1	Nasal blurred, but no elevation	Greyish opacities and attenuation of RNFL; halo and folds present
2	All borders obscured; nasal elevation	Complete peripapillary halo
3	All borders obscured; nasal elevation	Obscuration of segments of blood vessels; halo present with "finger-like" extensions
4	All borders obscured; all elevated	Obscuration of all bloods; total obscuration of blood vessels
5	All borders obscured; all elevated; dome-shaped protrusions	Obscuration of all bloods; total obscuration of blood vessels; obliteration of optic cup

### Optic papillitis

- Any inflammation of the optic nerve head (note difference to retrobulbar optic neuritis and papilloedema)
  - Work up still similar: must exclude IIH; include CSF analysis (for infection)

Demyelinating disease	Autoimmune disease	Infectious/parainfectious	Inflammatory	
MS; NMO Shilder's disease Encephalitis periaxialis concentrica	Sarcoidosis SLE Sjogren's syndrome Behcet's disease	Herpes zoster; VZV Lyme disease Syphilis TB Dengue fever Mumps Toxoplasmosis Measles Etc	Sinusitis Post-vacciniation Hep B Rabies; tetanus Meningitis Etc	
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### Neuroretinitis

- Inflammation affecting both optic nerve and retina
  - Characteristic "macular star" (localised to OPL)
- Aetiologies
  - Most common (especially young) infectious (Bartonella – cat scratch)
- Others: syphilis, Lyme disease, toxoplasmosis, toxocariasis etc
- Otherwise, idiopathic







	AAION	NAION
Age of onset	Older (70s+) (mean 72 yrs)	Relatively younger (50-60s) (mean 52 yrs)
Gender	Female > male	Female = male
Associated symptoms	Jaw claudication, headache, scalp tenderness, myalgia, constitutional symptoms	<10% mild pain
Disc	<ul> <li>Pallid disc swelling</li> <li>Cup of any size</li> <li>Cup enlarges after oedema resolves</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Hyperaemic disc swelling</li> <li>Small or absent cup – "disc at risk"</li> <li>Cup unchanged or little change after oedema</li> </ul>
VA	Generally worse than 6/60	Generally 6/9-12 or better (not bad)
Second eye	Involved in 1/3 (rule of thirds)	1/7 chance in 5 years
Retinal signs	Common: CWS	Uncommonly seen



### Optic nerve sheath meningioma

- Proliferation of meningothelial cells originating from arachnoid mater
- Grow circumferentially around the optic nerve without invasion of nerve tissue
- Pathology: mechanical compression



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# Ouick T/F quiz Arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy is accompanied by pain due to the inflammatory component Neuroretinitis is typically bilateral due to its systemic aetiology Disorders of axoplasmic flow at the level of the optic nerve head typically result in retrobulbar optic neuritis and are incompatible with secondary optic atrophy



### Consecutive optic atrophy

- "Consecutive" because it follows from other diseases of the inner retina or retinal blood supply
- Examples
  - Retinitis pigmentosa (RP); cone-rod dystrophies
- Vasculitis
- Retinal necrosis/neuroretinitis
- Excessive photocoagulation
- Retinal ischaemia











### Quick T/F quiz

- A cotton wool spot is a potential harbinger or sign of nerve fibre layer infarct and vascular investigations should be conducted
- Progressive neural degeneration should be accompanied by a very clear delineation of structural normality and abnormality
- Concordance is expected between gradients of structural and functional loss











### Pituitary lesion: not trans-synpatic

- Craniopharyngioma lesion from above = visual field defect from below
- Opposite with pituitary tumour
- Binasal defects: rare related to vascular tumour at pituitary



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### Quick T/F quiz

- Elevated intracranial pressure often causes visual field defects that respect the vertical midline
- The vertical midline is respected in both optic nerve and macular scans in retrograde degeneration
- Over time, people with stroke are likely to experience changes in vision and the visual field

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### **Clinical history**

- Previous ocular insult
- Vascular/ischaemic challenge
- Other connective tissue disease
- Drugs

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### **Clinical history**

- Many systemic diseases have been "linked" to glaucoma
- Cardiovascular (e.g. hypertension) (Marshall et al 2020 Ophthalmology)
- Metabolic/endocrine (e.g. diabetes) (Zhao et al 2015 Ophthalmology)
- Ischaemic stressors (e.g. obstructive sleep apnoea, migraine) (*Faridi et al* 2012 Clin Exp Ophthalmol)
- Connective tissue (e.g. rheumatoid arthritis) (Black et al 2016 PLoS ONE)
- Neurodegenerative (Mancino et al 2018 Curr Neuropharmacol)
- Gastrointestinal? (Gong et al 2020 Exp Eye Res)

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### Entrance tests

- Visual acuity
- Refractive error
- Pupillary reflexes



### Entrance tests – refractive error

- Influence of refractive error
  - Vision changes
  - Visual field defects
  - Optic disc examination
  - OCT artefacts
- Normative database comparisons









### Optic nerve examination

- Maintain a systematic approach
  - Size
  - Cup width and depth
  - Rim: thickness and colour
  - RNFL reflectivity
  - Vasculature
  - Pertinent negatives (disc haemorrhages)



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### Intraocular pressure reporting

- Typical recommendations is to report "as is"
- Corrected IOPs are not meaningful
- Some devices will output a modified IOP, e.g. the ORA
- Bayesian approach to interpretation

























### Longitudinal data

- Glaucoma is **progressive** but not all progression is equal
- Progression identification can be automated or manual
- Statistical versus clinical versus patient relevance?

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### Coming Up - Interactive poll #4

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Case 2 – 61F			
	Right eye	Left eye	
Vision and Rx	-6.00/-2.00x95 (20/25)	-7.00/-1.75x95 (20/20)	
Applanation IOP	14	14	
ССТ	550	556	
Anterior segment	No cataract	No cataract	
Gonioscopy	Wide open angles	Wide open angles	























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### Case 3 – 66M

- No issues with vision and no ocular symptoms
- Personal ocular history unremarkable
- Family history of glaucoma (father)
- Medical history: treated hypertension

Case 3 – 66N	1		
	Right eye	Left eye	
Acuity and refraction	+0.50DS (20/20)	+0.25/-0.25x10 (20/20)	
Applanation pressures (mmHg)	15	15	
Corneal thicknesses (microns)	545	551	
Pupils	No R	APD	
Anterior segment and gonioscopy	Wide open angles, no s fact	econdary glaucoma risk tors	
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### Case 4 – 70F

- Opinion on narrow angles
- No ocular symptoms
- No medications; no relevant medical history
- Previous MVA 20 years ago passenger side

Case 4 – 70F		
	Right eye	Left eye
Acuity and refraction	Plano 20/30	Plano 20/25
Applanation pressures (mmHg)	16	14
Corneal thicknesses (microns)	529	545
Pupils	No RAPD	
Anterior segment and gonioscopy	Narrow angles; gr 2+ NS	













### Coming Up - Interactive poll #5

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