

Glaucoma Progression Analysis Case



By Murray Fingeret, O.D.

This individual was diagnosed with Primary Open Angle Glaucoma, based upon glaucomatous optic neuropathy and a mild superior partial arcuate scotoma. After initiating therapy, the patient was followed by perimetry on a six-month basis initially and yearly thereafter.

Early Fields Suggest Progression

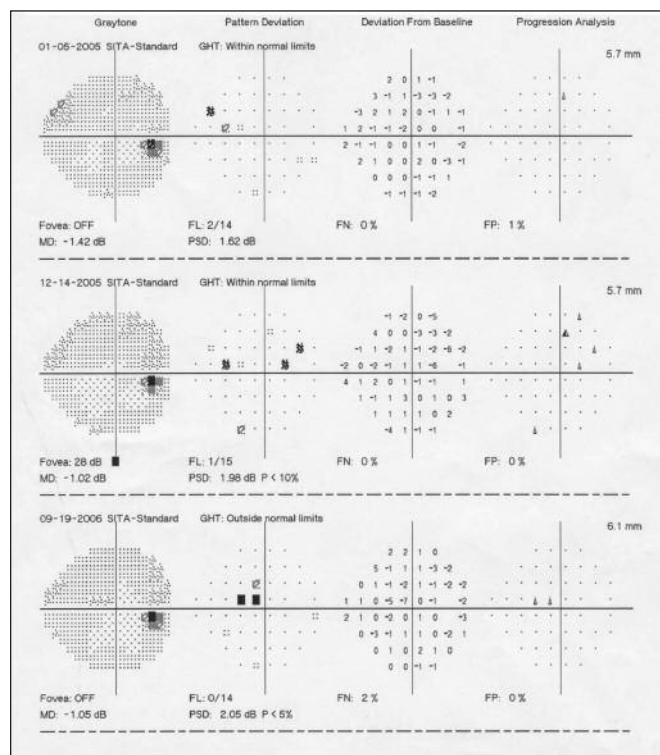
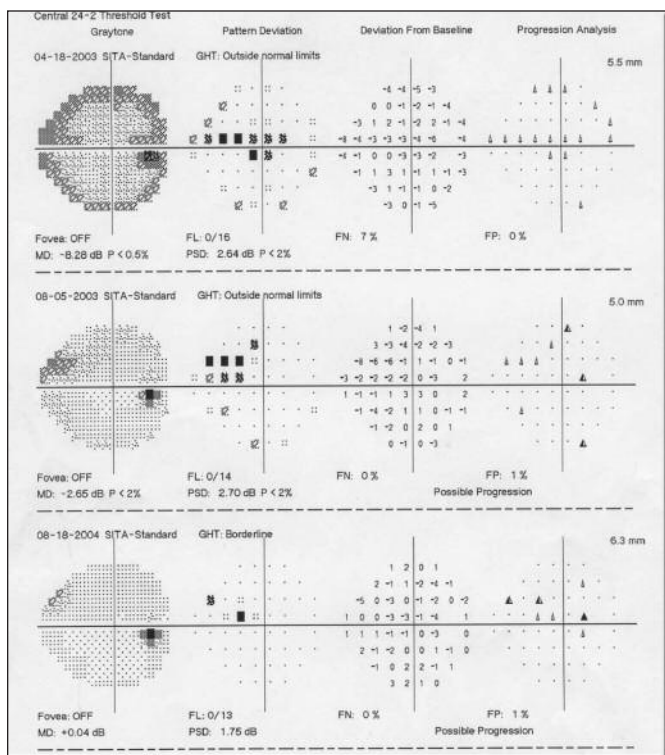
The April 2003 visual field showed a series of points getting worse superiorly leading to the field being repeated at the next visit (August 2003) to confirm progression. In August 2003, only two points were repeatable. One of those was attributed to the upper lid and not due to glaucomatous change. Fields were next performed in August 2004 with two points in the superior nasal quadrant flagged for the second time and one point flagged for the third time. Due to the arrangement of the flagged points, the field was repeated at the next visit to confirm the change.

Later Fields Show Variability

At this visit (January 2005), no points were found to have changed on the progression analysis. The reason that a different number

of points were previously flagged on each test was attributed to variability. The field was next performed in December 2005 with several points again flagged as changing from the baseline examination, but none were from the original group identified in August 2003. This change was not considered to be significant and fields were repeated for the last time in September 2006. At this exam, a set of two points were flagged for the first time and were not indicative of progression.

In summary, this individual has been followed for over six years with change never confirmed. While on any single test, several points have been flagged as progressing, when one steps back and looks at the total set of fields performed over time, a pattern emerges. The standard for progression (three points consistently flagged on three successive tests) has never been confirmed with this patient. The assessment for the fields is that they are indicative of variability and not due to true glaucomatous change. Nevertheless, progression may sometimes appear as variability early on and while six years to some may not be considered early, in the course of a lifetime, it may well be.



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