touchEXPERT OPINIONS

Innovations in glaucoma care: Targeting pathophysiology to expand treatment options



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The mechanics of glaucoma: Exploring aqueous humour flow and trabecular meshwork pathways

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What is glaucoma and how does it present?



Overview of glaucoma

Glaucoma is a leading cause of vision loss that is characterized by optic nerve damage^{1,2}



Increased resistance to AH outflow resulting in elevated IOP and nerve damage over time⁵



Prevalence^{6,7}

- Globally: 80 million
 - A leading cause of blindness worldwide



USA: 3 million Canada: >450,000

Characterized by narrowing or obstruction of anterior chamber angle, leading to severe IOP elevation⁵

AH, aqueous humour; IOP, intraocular pressure.

1. Kang JM, Tanna AP. Glaucoma. Med Clin North Am. 2021;105:493–510; 2. American Academy of Ophthalmology. What Is Glaucoma? Symptoms, Causes, Diagnosis, Treatment. 2023. Available at: www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/what-is-glaucoma (accessed 5 September 2024); 3. Petsas A, et al. J Intensive Care Soc. 2017;18:244-6; 4. Schmidl D, et al. J Ocul Pharmacol Ther. 2015;31:63-77; 5. Weinreb RN, et al. JAMA. 2014;311:1901-11; 6. Davuluru SS, et al. Transl Vis Sci Technol. 2023;12:18; 7. Canadian Association of Optometrists. Glaucoma. 2023. Available at: https://opto.ca/eve-health-library/glaucoma (accessed 5 September 2024).



Overview of glaucoma

Glaucoma is a leading cause of vision loss that is characterized by optic nerve damage^{1,2}



Increased resistance to AH outflow resulting in elevated IOP and nerve damage over time⁵

Key risk factors for developing OAG^{6–10}





Myopia

Central corneal thickness



African/Caribbean descent (4x ↑ risk + earlier onset from 40 years) or Hispanic descent

Comorbidities (e.g., diabetes, abnormal BP)

Family history

Steroids



Typically asymptomatic until late in the disease stage



Optic nerve structural damage





Paracentral visual field may be impacted first

AH, aqueous humour; BP, blood pressure; IOP, intraocular pressure; OAG, open-angle glaucoma.

1. Kang JM, Tanna AP. Med Clin North Am. 2021;105:493–510; 2. American Academy of Ophthalmology. What Is Glaucoma? Symptoms, Causes, Diagnosis, Treatment. 2023. Available at: www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/what-is-glaucoma (accessed 5 September 2024); 3. Petsas A, et al. J Intensive Care Soc. 2017;18:244–6; 4. Schmidl D, et al. J Ocul Pharmacol Ther. 2015;31:63–77; 5. Weinreb RN, et al. JAMA. 2014;311:1901–11; 6. Tanna AP. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2023;141:258–9; 7. American Academy of Ophthalmology. Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma. 2023. https://evewiki.org/Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma (accessed 5 September 2024); 8. Jóhannesson G, et al. Acta Ophthalmol. 2024;102:135–50; 9. Distelhorst JS, Hughes GM. Am Fam Physician. 2003;67:1937–44; 10. Jammal AA, et al. Ophthalmology. 2022;129:161–70: 11. Wagner IV. et al. Mayo Clin Proc Innov Qual Outcomes. 2022;6:618–35.



How is aqueous flow disrupted in patients with open-angle glaucoma?



Changes to AH flow in OAG^{1,2}



Aqueous humour (AH)

Supplies nutrients and O₂ to avascular tissues and removes waste products³ Normal conditions

IOP is regulated by the movement of AH through the eye²

OAG

Increased resistance to AH outflow via conventional pathway at a cellular and ultrastructural level²

AH, aqueous humour; IOP, intraocular pressure; OAG, open angle glaucoma.

1. Križaj D. What is glaucoma? 2019. In: Kolb H, Fernandez E, Nelson R, editors. Webvision: The Organization of the Retina and Visual System [Internet]. Available at: <u>www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK543075/</u> (accessed 5 September 2024); 2. Schmidl D, et al. *J Ocul Pharmacol Ther*. 2015;31:63–77; 3. Goel M, et al. *Open Ophthalmol J*. 2010;4:52–9.





 Križaj D. What is glaucoma? 2019. In: Kolb H, Fernandez E, Nelson R, editors. Webvision: The Organization of the Retina and Visual System [Internet]. Available at: <u>www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK543075/</u> (accessed 5 September 2024); 2. Schmidl D, et al. *J Ocul Pharmacol Ther*. 2015;31:63–77;
 Al-khfajy WS, et al. *UK J Pharm Biosci*. 2018;6:11–18.





Available at: www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK543075/ (accessed 5 September 2024); 2. Schmidl D, et al. J Ocul Pharmacol Ther. 2015;31:63–77;

3. Al-khfajy WS, et al. UKJ Pharm Biosci. 2018;6:11–18; 4. Weinreb RN, et al. Nat Rev Dis Primers. 2016;2:16067.



How does open-angle glaucoma manifest in patients with normal intraocular pressure?





NTG, normal-tension glaucoma.

 Križaj D. What is glaucoma? 2019. In: Kolb H, Fernandez E, Nelson R, editors. Webvision: The Organization of the Retina and Visual System [Internet]. Available at: <u>www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK543075/</u> (accessed 5 September 2024); 2. Schmidl D, et al. *J Ocul Pharmacol Ther*. 2015;31:63–77;
 Al-khfajy WS, et al. *UK J Pharm Biosci*. 2018;6:11–18; 4. Weinreb RN, et al. *Nat Rev Dis Primers*. 2016;2:16067; 5. American Academy of Ophthalmology. Normal Tension Glaucoma. 2024. Available at: <u>https://eyewiki.org/Normal Tension Glaucoma</u> (accessed 5 September 2024).



Changes more frequently observed in NTG^{1–5}



NTG, normal-tension glaucoma.

 Križaj D. What is glaucoma? 2019. In: Kolb H, Fernandez E, Nelson R, editors. Webvision: The Organization of the Retina and Visual System [Internet]. Available at: <u>www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK543075/</u> (accessed 5 September 2024); 2. Schmidl D, et al. *J Ocul Pharmacol Ther*. 2015;31:63–77;
 Al-khfajy WS, et al. *UK J Pharm Biosci*. 2018;6:11–18; 4. Weinreb RN, et al. *Nat Rev Dis Primers*. 2016;2:16067; 5. American Academy of Ophthalmology. Normal Tension Glaucoma. 2024. Available at: <u>https://eyewiki.org/Normal Tension Glaucoma</u> (accessed 5 September 2024).



What is steroid-associated glaucoma and how does it differ from primary open-angle glaucoma?



Changes observed in steroid-associated OAG



- ECM contains glycosaminoglycans and other proteins, which when increased, may contribute to TM resistance⁵
- TM and Schlemm's canal cells stiffen, reducing their ability to form pores for efficient AH outflow^{5,6}

AH, aqueous humour; ECM, extracellular matrix; IOP, intraocular pressure; OAG, open-angle glaucoma; TM, trabecular meshwork.

1. Kang JM, Tanna AP. *Med Clin North Am*. 2021;105:493–510; 2. Wiggs JL. Glaucoma. In: *Reference Module in Biomedical Sciences*. Elsevier, 2014; 3. Patel PD, et al. *Cells*. 2023;12:2452; 4. Fellman RL. Steroids for Glaucoma: Both Friend and Foe. 2015. Available at: <u>www.reviewofophthalmology.com/article/steroids-for-glaucoma-both-friend-and-foe</u> (accessed 5 September 2024); 5. Raghunathan VK, et al. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 2015;56:4447–59; 6. Kelly RA, et al. *Int J Mol Sci*. 2021;22:9446.



Mechanistic perspectives on glaucoma treatment: From conventional to innovative therapies

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What are the conventional drug therapies that are available for open-angle glaucoma and how do they work?



MOA of conventional topical therapies^{1,2}



Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors³

α₂-selective adrenergic agonists³

Prostaglandin analogues³

AH, aqueous humour: MOA, mechanism of action.

1. Križaj D. What is glaucoma? 2019 May 30. In: Kolb H, Fernandez E, Nelson R, editors. Webvision: The Organization of the Retina and Visual System [Internet]. Salt Lake City (UT): University of Utah Health Sciences Center; 1995-. Available from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK543075/ (accessed 5 September 2024); 2. Schmidl D. et al. J Ocul Pharmacol Ther. 2015:31:63–77: 3. Jóhannesson G. et al. Acta Ophthalmol. 2024:102:135–50.



What are the clinical efficacy and safety data for conventional glaucoma treatments?



Efficacy and safety of conventional therapies^{1–3}



*Values shown are for treatment with topical therapy. [†]AEs listed are a selection of those commonly reported/observed in practice; for an exhaustive list, please refer to the prescribing information for individual agents per drug class. AE, adverse event; CHF, chronic heart failure; COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; IOP, intraocular pressure; MAOi, monoamine oxidase inhibitor; SCD, sickle cell disease. 1. Jóhannesson G, et al. *Acta Ophthal*International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). Latin America Guide to Primary Open Angle Glaucoma, 2019. *mol*.

2024;102:135–50; 2. Gedde SJ, et al. *Ophthalmology*. 2021;128:71–150; 3. Available at: <u>www.iapb.org/learn/resources/latin-america-guide-to-primary-open-angle-glaucoma/</u> (accessed 15 August 2024).



How do newer agents work to address the disease pathway in open-angle glaucoma?



Newer topical therapies offer alternative MOAs^{1–3}



Prostaglandin analogues (new)^{4,5}

 Latanoprostene bunod Metabolized to NO donating moiety BDMN and latanoprost acid

ROCK/NET inhibitors^{6,7}

Netarsudil ROCK and NET inhibition

AH, aqueous humour; BDMN, 4-hydroxybutyl nitrate; MOA, mechanism of action; NET, norepinephrine transporter; NO, nitric oxide; ROCK, Rho kinase. 1. Križaj D. What is glaucoma? 2019 May 30. In: Kolb H, Fernandez E, Nelson R, editors. Webvision: The Organization of the Retina and Visual System [Internet]. Salt Lake City (UT): University of Utah Health Sciences Center; 1995-. Available from: <u>https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK543075/</u> (accessed 5 September 2024); 2. Schmidl D, et al. *J Ocul Pharmacol Ther*. 2015;31:63–77; 3. Hurley DJ, et al. *Antioxidants*. 2022;11:886; 4. Jóhannesson G, et al. *Acta Ophthalmol*. 2024;102:135– 50; 5. Cavet ME, et al. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 2015;56:4108–16; 6. Ren R, et al. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 2016;57:6197–209; 7. National Center for Biotechnology Information. PubChem Compound Summary for CID 66599893, Netarsudil. 2024. <u>https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/compound/Netarsudil</u> (accessed 5 September 2024).



What clinical outcomes have been observed with newer agents in patients who have open-angle glaucoma?

Efficacy and safety of newer topical therapies^{1–5}



Findings versus other agents of the same class

Latanoprostene bunod

 Topical latanoprostene bunod lowered IOP more effectively than latanoprost⁸

Netarsudil

 Netarsudil was superior to another ROCK inhibitor, ripasudil (approved in Japan), in lowering IOP in Japanese patients⁹

No contraindications reported for either agent

*Based on a pooled analysis of two phase III randomized trials comparing latanoprost bunod with timolol; ⁺Based on a pooled efficacy analysis of three phase III randomized trials comparing netarsudil with timolol.

AE, adverse event; IOP, intraocular pressure; ROCK, Rho kinase.

1. Jóhannesson G, et al. *Acta Ophthalmol.* 2024;102:135–50; 2. Gedde SJ, et al. *Ophthalmology.* 2021;128:P71–150; 3. International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). Latin America Guide to Primary Open Angle Glaucoma, 2019. Available at: www.iapb.org/learn/resources/latin-america-guide-to-primary-open-angle-glaucoma/ (accessed 15 August 2024); 4. FDA. Latanoprostene bunod PI. 2018. Available at: www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/index.cfm (accessed 15 August 2024); 4. FDA. Latanoprostene bunod PI. 2018. Available at: www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/index.cfm (accessed 5 September 2024); 5. FDA. Netarsudil PI. 2017. Available at: www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/index.cfm (accessed 5 September 2024); 6. Weinreb RN, et al. *J Glaucoma*. 2018;27:7–15; 7. Singh IP, et al. *J Glaucoma*. 2020;29:878–84; 8. Weinreb RN, et al. *Br J Ophthalmol*. 2015;99:738–45; 9. Araie M, et al. *Adv Ther*. 2023;40:4639–56.



Fine-tuning glaucoma medical care: Optimizing treatment plans for improved outcomes

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What do clinical guidelines recommend for selecting single agents in open-angle glaucoma?

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Selecting topical monotherapy in primary OAG

Treatment goals: Control IOP, stabilize optic nerve and visual fields, preserve patient QoL^{1,2} Target IOP range to account for disease severity and a visual field loss rate that is unlikely to significantly decrease long-term QoL^{1,2}



AAO and ICO/PAAO/IAPB guidelines recommend use of these two agents first^{1,3}

AAO, American Academy of Ophthalmology; AE, adverse event; IAPB, International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness; ICO, International Council of Ophthalmology; IOP, intraocular pressure; LTP, laser trabeculoplasty; OAG, open-angle glaucoma; PAAO, Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology; QoL, quality of life. 1. Gedde SJ, et al. *Ophthalmology*. 2021;128:71–150; 2. Jóhannesson G, et al. *Acta Ophthalmol*. 2024;102:135–50; 3. IAPB. Latin America Guide to Primary Open Angle Glaucoma. 2019. Available at: <u>www.iapb.org/learn/resources/latin-america-guide-to-primary-open-angle-glaucoma/</u> (accessed 13 September 2024); 4. European Glaucoma Society Terminology and Guidelines for Glaucoma, 5th Edition. *Br J Ophthalmol*. 2021;105(Suppl. 1):1–169.



When is the use of multiple pharmacologic agents appropriate?



Use of multiple agents may be necessary

If monotherapies have failed to adequately lower IOP, the addition of a second agent from another drug class may be needed^{1,2}





IOP, intraocular pressure.

1. European Glaucoma Society Terminology and Guidelines for Glaucoma, 5th Edition. *Br J Ophthalmol*. 2021;105(Suppl. 1):1–169; 2. Jóhannesson G, et al. *Acta Ophthalmol*. 2024;102:135–50; 3. Schwartz GF, et al. *Ophthalmol Glaucoma*. 2021;4:117–25.

What are the challenges of using multiple topical agents and how can they be addressed?



Balancing efficacy and safety of multiple agents

Efficacy	Safety
 Use of two topical agents improves IOP control¹ Use of three or four agents can also elicit clinically meaningful reductions in IOP (40–60%)*,² 	 Long-term OAG topical therapy use, particularly with preservatives, can cause ocular surface and periorbital changes⁶
 However, Ocular drug bioavailability after topical administration is relatively low (<5% even for small lipophilic molecules)³ 	 BAC can lead to or worsen ocular surface disease⁷ The use of BAC-free eye drops can minimize AEs⁸
 Must wait 3–5 minutes between applications and improper technique impacts efficacy and adherence^{4,5} 	 Patients taking ≥2 topical medications are more likely to experience AEs vs those using monotherapy^{9,10}

FDCs can help to simplify regimens and decrease AEs¹⁰

*Topical and systemic carbonic anhydrase inhibitors were grouped as one class of medication.

AE, adverse event; BAC, benzalkonium chloride; FDC, fixed-dose combination; IOP, intraocular pressure; OAG, open-angle glaucoma.

1. Atey TM, et al. J Ophthalmol. 2017;2017:1683430; 2. Neelakantan A, et al. J Glaucoma. 2004;13:130–6; 3. Agarwal R, et al. Drug Deliv. 2016;23:1075–91;

4. American Academy of Ophthalmology. How to Put in Eye Drops. 2023. Available at: <u>www.aao.org/eye-health/treatments/how-to-put-in-eye-drops</u>

(accessed 13 September 2024); 5. Carpenter DM, et al. Health Commun. 2016;31:1036–42; 6. Andole S, Senthil S. Semin Ophthalmol. 2023;38:158–66;

7. Aguayo Bonniard A, et al. Expert Opin Drug Metab Toxicol. 2016;12:1279–89; 8. Inoue K. Clin Ophthalmol. 2014;8:903–13;

9. Sleath B, et al. ISRN Ophthalmol. 2012;2012:902819; 10. Yu AL, et al. Clin Ophthalmol. 2014;8:1221-6.



What is the evidence for fixed-dose combination therapies?



Clinical data for FDCs*

Class	CAI/ β-blocker	CAI/ α_2 -selective adrenergic agonist	α_2 -selective adrenergic agonist/ β -blocker	ROCK inhibitor/ PGA
Agents in FDC	Dorzolamide 2%/ timolol 0.5%	Brinzolamide 1%/ brimonidine 0.2%	Brimonidine 0.2%/ timolol 0.5%	Netarsudil 0.02%/ latanoprost 0.005%
Study	• N=335 adults with OAG/OHT ¹	• N=660 adults with OAG/OHT ²	• N=1,159 adults with OAG/OHT ³	• N=750 adults with OAG/OHT ⁴
Efficacy	% IOP reduction at 3 months 27.4–32.7 FDC 15.5–19.8 Dorzolamide 2% 22.2–22.6 Timolol 0.5%	% IOP reduction at 3 months 24.1–34.9 FDC 16.9–22.6 Brinzolamide 1% 14.3–25.8 Brimonidine 0.2%	mm Hg reduction at 12 months -4.4–7.6 FDC -2.7–5.5 Brimonidine 0.2% -3.9–6.2 Timolol 0.5%	% IOP reduction at 3 months 30.3–34.8 FDC 19.5–23.0 Netarsudil 0.02% 23.6–27.3 Latanoprost 0.005%
AEs	 TEAEs in 173 patients Significantly more patients discontinued FDC vs timolol 	 TEAEs in 129 patients One serious AE (chest pain) due to therapy (brinzolamide) 	 Incidence of TEAEs lower in FDC vs brimonidine group, but higher in FDC vs timolol group 	 Conjunctival hyperaemia was most common No treatment-related SAEs

FDC of preservative-free therapies, e.g., tafluprost/timolol, may help to decrease side-effects associated with preservatives such as corneal fluorescein staining, dry eye, itching, irritation, foreign body sensation and conjunctival hyperaemia⁵

*Not an exhaustive list of preparations available globally; please check local regulations and guidelines.

AE, adverse event; CAI, carbonic anhydrase inhibitor; FDC, fixed-dose combination; IOP, intraocular pressure; OAG, open-angle glaucoma; OHT, ocular hypertension;

PGA, prostaglandin analogue; RCT, randomized controlled trial; ROCK, Rho kinase; SAE, serious AE; TEAE, treatment-emergent AE.

1. Boyle JE, et al. Ophthalmology. 1998;105:1945–51. 2. Katz G, et al. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2013;131:724–30; 3. Sherwood MB, et al. Arch Ophthalmol. 2006;124:1230–8;

4. Walters TR, et al. Ophthalmol Glaucoma. 2019;2:280–9; 5. Oddone F, et al. Adv Ther. 2020;37:1436–51. Erratum in: Adv Ther. 2020;37:3643–44.



Recent studies have aimed to compare FDCs*

Brimonidine 0.1%/timolol 0.5% vs dorzolamide 1%/timolol 0.5%¹

- FDCs compared as adjunct therapy to PGAs
- N=110 adults with OAG/OHT

IOP reduction at 8 weeks Brimonidine/ Dorzolamide/ timolol timolol -3.55 mm Hg -3.60 mm Hg

 Brimonidine/timolol FDC was non-inferior to dorzolamide/timolol

Netarsudil 0.02%/latanoprost 0.005% vs bimatoprost 0.03%/timolol 0.5%²

- FDCs compared as part of MERCURY-3 RCT
- N=430 adults with OAG/OHT

IOP difference:

≤1.5 mm Hg

achieved at all nine timepoints assessed over 3 months

 Netarsudil/latanoprost FDC was non-inferior to bimatoprost/timolol

*Not an exhaustive list of studies comparing different FDC preparations in OAG/OHT.

FDC, fixed-dose combination; IOP, intraocular pressure; OAG, open-angle glaucoma; OHT, ocular hypertension; PGA, prostaglandin analogue; RCT, randomized controlled trial.

1. Inatani M, et al. Adv Ther. 2023;40:4074–92; 2. Stalmans I, et al. Graefes Arch Clin Exp Ophthalmol. 2024;262:179–90.



What other techniques can be combined with drug therapy to optimize outcomes in open-angle glaucoma?

