



Effective Health Care

Treatment of Open-Angle Glaucoma Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Treatment of open-angle glaucoma will go forward for refinement as a comparative effectiveness or effectiveness review. The scope of this topic, including populations, interventions, comparators, and outcomes, will be further developed in the refinement phase.
- When key questions have been drafted, they will be posted on the AHRQ Web site and open for public comment. To sign up for notification when this and other Effective Health Care (EHC) Program topics are posted for public comment, please go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/join-the-email-list/>.

Topic Description

Nominators: 1 anonymous individual, 1 individual

Nomination Summary: The anonymous nominator is interested in the comparative risks and benefits of treatments for open-angle glaucoma, including surgical, laser, and medical interventions for treating glaucoma. The second individual nominator questions the comparative effectiveness of medication versus laser surgery as primary treatment for newly diagnosed patients with open-angle glaucoma. The primary outcome of interest for this nominator is controlling 24-hour intraocular pressure. The nomination states that one population of interest is patients who can not use eye drops on a daily basis, such as patients with dementia.

Key Questions from Nominator:

From Nominator 1 (anonymous individual):

1. What are the health risks and benefits of trabeculectomy as compared to alternatives, including laser surgery, trabectome, and canaloplasty?
2. What types of individuals continue to require ocular or glaucoma medications after surgery?
3. Does treatment response vary for African-Americans as compared to those who are not African-Americans?
4. Does age modify this risk?

From Nominator 2 (individual):

1. For newly diagnosed patients with open-angle glaucoma, what is the comparative effectiveness of medication versus laser surgery in controlling 24-hour intraocular pressure?

Considerations

- The topic meets all EHC Program selection criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Open-angle glaucoma affects millions of people in the US, and prevalence increases with age. There are no recent guidelines on the treatment of glaucoma in the US.
- Open-angle glaucoma disproportionately affects minority groups and vulnerable populations; therefore, a strong focus on these populations will be an important aspect of the review conducted within the EHC Program.