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Glaucoma: an eye or a brain disease?

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Propositions

GLAUCOMA:
AN EYE OR A BRAIN DISEASE?

1. Glaucomatous changes in MR diffusion measures cannot be explained on the basis of visual deprivation or optic nerve damage alone.

2. Monocular glaucoma and non-glaucomatous monocular blindness have a different effect on the brain.

3. Glaucoma is a neurodegenerative disease rather than "just an eye disease".

4. Glaucomatous changes in MR diffusion measures primarily occur along entire tracts, rather than only at specific locations of the tract.

5. Treatment in glaucoma should focus on both the eye and the brain.

6. The involvement of the brain in glaucoma suggests that neuroimaging - over time – will be required in the clinical evaluation of disease progress and treatment outcome.

7. Future MRI research should strive to create novel approaches to evaluate the effectiveness of neuroprotective medication. Tractometry is a potential candidate for this as it allows examination of white matter structures of individual patients.

8. When different experiments give you the same result, it is no longer subject to your opinion. That's the good thing about science: It's true whether or not you believe in it. (Neil deGrasse Tyson)

9. Your mindset sets the stage for your level of success.

Sandra Hanekamp