



<b>Title</b>	<b>Glaucoma: Screening and Early Diagnosis – Problems and Outlook in France</b>
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<b>Reference</b>	HAS report, November 2006

## Aim

To summarize and comment on the current status of key clinical and economic data on glaucoma.

## Conclusions and results

This report reviews data on the history and epidemiology of glaucoma, problems posed by diagnosis and treatment in France, the relevance of screening, and the expectations of health professionals. Assessing the possible implementation of a national screening program for glaucoma is not relevant in view of the current state of knowledge and medical practice in France. There is no single specific diagnostic test for early-stage glaucoma. Several tests would need to be used, complicating the screening strategy. Furthermore, the value of these tests has not been assessed in either the general population or a targeted population.

## Methods

The report was produced in 4 months by a method not previously used by HAS. Studies were selected and reviewed according to the same evidence-based rules as for standard assessments, but the review was restricted to studies having a high level of evidence. Documentary research focused on documents from agencies and/or learned societies, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, and French or European observational studies. The opinion of 11 health professionals from different professional backgrounds and regions of France, who are concerned by glaucoma, was requested in a questionnaire. The report was submitted to members of the *Commission d'évaluation des stratégies de santé*<sup>1</sup> and the HAS Board to establish the issue(s) that the assessment report on glaucoma scheduled for 2007 (HAS' work program) should address.

## Further research/reviews required

The following actions are needed according to the data in the present report:

- Carry out an epidemiology study to estimate the prevalence of glaucoma (by type of glaucoma) and raised intraocular pressure in France
- Identify and describe the risk factors (characteristics and threshold values of abnormality) that should be looked for to define a target population (by type of glaucoma) that would benefit from an improved early diagnosis strategy
- Establish and standardize diagnostic and management strategies for glaucoma
- Establish the sequence of tests to be used in the diagnostic strategy and whether they are appropriate for screening.

HAS proposes that guidelines should be developed on the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma in France. They should also cover followup of patients with either raised intraocular pressure or confirmed glaucoma.

<sup>1</sup> Committee for Healthcare Strategy Assessment