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EFFECT OF MIGRAINE SEVERITY ON THE RETINAL NERVE FIBER LAYER THICKNESS

Mohammed Magdy Mohammed Mahmoud
Assistant lecturer at Kafr Elsheikh university



➤ **Migraine** is a chronic disease characterized by

→ **Unilateral**

→ **Throbbing**

→ **Moderate-to-severe repetitive episodes** of headache

→ **Vegetative symptoms** such as nausea, vomiting and
photophobia.



➤ Migraine

- Affects approximately **15%** of the general population.
- **Most prevalent** neurological disorder.
- **Third most frequent** global disorder in both genders.
- Mainly affects **women** aged **20–45** years, and symptoms typically last **4–72 h**.



- According to **The International Classification of Headache Diseases (ICHD)**, migraine has two types:

- ❖ Migraine with Aura (MwA or classic migraine).
- ❖ Migraine without Aura (MwoA or common migraine).

Criteria of Migraine	
Without Aura	
A. At least five attacks fulfilling criteria B–D	
B. Headache attacks lasting 4-72 h (untreated or unsuccessfully treated)	
C. Headache has at least two of the following four characteristics:	
1.	Unilateral location
2.	Pulsating quality
3.	Moderate or severe pain intensity
4.	Aggravation by or causing avoidance of routine physical activity (e.g., walking or climbing stairs)
D. During headache at least one of the following:	
1.	Nausea and/or vomiting
2.	Photophobia and phonophobia.
E. Not better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis	
With aura	
A. At least two attacks fulfilling criteria B and C	
B. One or more of the following fully reversible aura symptoms:	
1.	Visual
2.	Sensory
3.	Speech and/or language
4.	Motor
5.	Brain stem
6.	Retinal
C. At least two of the following four characteristics:	
1.	At least one aura symptom spreads gradually over - 5 min, and/or two or more symptoms occur in succession
2.	Each individual aura symptom lasts 5-60 min
3.	At least one aura symptom is unilateral
4.	The aura is accompanied, or followed within 60 min, by headache
D. Not better accounted for by another ICHD-3 diagnosis, and transient ischemic attack has been excluded.	

REGARDING THE PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF MIGRAINE

Vascular theory

- Vasoconstriction occurs during an aura and that subsequent vasodilatation causes a headache, has been widely accepted as fact

Neuronal theory

- Migraine is caused by the excessive stimulation of nerve cells in the cerebral cortex.

Trigemino-vascular theory

- Connection between cerebral vessels and the trigeminal nerves with activation of vascular networks results in headache by causing meningeal vasodilation and inflammation

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➤ Retinal migraine characterized by

→ **Recurrent**

→ **Reversible positive or negative monocular visual symptoms**

→ Thought to be due to **reversible retinal vasospasm.**

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- Recent **OCT** studies have revealed that individuals with **MwA** have **lower** foveal and peri-papillary vascular density as well as **decreased** retinal nerve fiber layer (RNFL) thickness in comparison to **healthy** controls.



❖ Optic nerve structural changes in Migraine:

Compromised choroidal blood flow can produce **focal ischemic damage** in the optic disc.

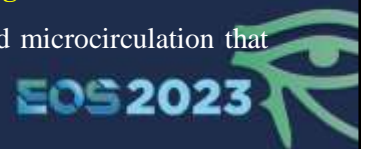
Peri-papillary RNFL thickness was **thinner** in migraine patients than in healthy controls

Association between **laterality** of migraine and **RNFL** thickness in one-sided headache.

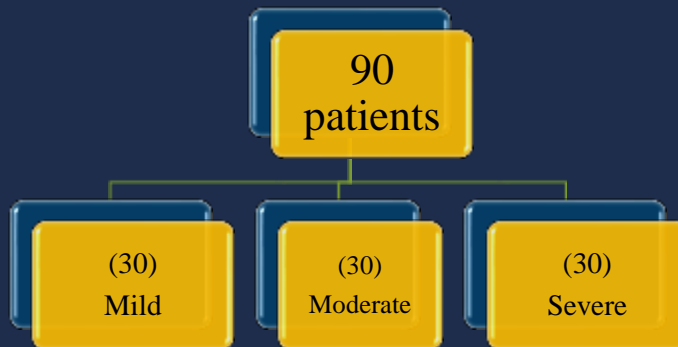
Peri-papillary **RNFL** thickness could also be associated with the **length** of migraine history.

❖ Management of migraine:

- The main objective is to **shorten the frequency** and **duration of migraine attacks** so that it will **reduce the perfusion quality alterations** in optic nerve head microcirculation that contributed to ganglion cell death in migraine patients.



The aim of the study is to evaluate the severity of migraine on ocular perfusion pressure and RNFL thickness.



Inclusion criteria

- ✓ Patients with criteria of classic migraine.
- ✓ Age from 15-50 years old..

Exclusion criteria

1. Associated systemic diseases: diabetes mellitus and hypertension.
2. History of significant ocular disease: scleritis, uveitis, glaucoma.
3. Ocular trauma, Retinal pathology and Optic nerve anomalies.



- There was statistically **significant decrease** in **average** RNFL thickness, **TI**, **TS** and **T** quadrants with the increase of **severity** of migraine.

RNFL Thickness		Mild migraine	Moderate migraine	Severe migraine	Test value*	P-value
		No. = 30	No. = 30	No. = 30		
Average	Mean±SD	104.80 ± 7.79	99.00 ± 4.99	92.57 ± 8.88	20.496	0.000
	Range	92.00 - 119.5	91.5 - 108	79.5 - 108		
TI (µm)	Mean±SD	117.23 ± 7.94	108.72 ± 10.53	97.40 ± 13.94	24.079	0.000
	Range	101.00 - 136.5	87.5 - 135	80 - 138.5		
NI (µm)	Mean±SD	117.28 ± 22.82	114.95 ± 18.61	114.52 ± 30.40	0.111	0.895
	Range	78.00 - 183.5	87 - 150.5	69 - 184.5		
TS (µm)	Mean±SD	143.92 ± 18.11	135.62 ± 9.36	118.88 ± 15.83	21.965	0.000
	Range	112.50 - 183	113 - 155.5	91 - 143.5		
NS (µm)	Mean±SD	118.33 ± 19.07	116.82 ± 14.39	115.47 ± 15.96	0.235	0.791
	Range	89.50 - 151.5	92.5 - 145.5	82 - 145		
N (µm)	Mean±SD	78.02 ± 14.55	73.07 ± 11.51	70.07 ± 13.04	2.821	0.065
	Range	51.50 - 115	46.5 - 89.5	44 - 98.5		
T (µm)	Mean±SD	75.23 ± 7.22	69.03 ± 7.60	61.42 ± 7.19	26.681	0.000
	Range	65.00 - 94	60 - 88	51.5 - 73		

- There was **no statistically significant** relation found between **severity** of migraine and **ocular perfusion pressure** of the studied patients.

Ocular perfusion pressure	Mild migraine	Moderate migraine	Severe migraine	Test value	P-value
	No. = 30	No. = 30	No. = 30		
Mean±SD	47.64 ± 5.49	47.83 ± 6.52	47.69 ± 3.39	0.011	0.989
Range	34.86 - 56.88	35.38 - 61.6	40.72 - 51.94		

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- There was **statistically significant negative correlation** found between disease **duration** and **average** RNFL thickness, **TI**, **TS**, **NS**, **N** and **T** quadrants.

- No statistically significant** correlation found between disease **duration** and **ocular perfusion pressure**.

	Disease duration (year)	
	r	p-value
Ocular perfusion pressure	-0.035	0.742
Average	-0.421**	0.000
TI (µm)	-0.428**	0.000
NI (µm)	-0.127	0.234
TS (µm)	-0.268*	0.011
NS (µm)	-0.232*	0.027
N (µm)	-0.298**	0.004
T (µm)	-0.385**	0.000

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Relation between severity of migraine and RNFL thickness

AGREE

AGREE

Disagree

Ulusoy et al. (2019) found that significant **inverse correlation** between migraine severity and thickness of the **inferior** and **temporal** quadrants of the RNFL

Abdellatif et al. (2018)

Simsek et al. (2014)

Evaluation of retinal nerve fibre layer and ganglion cell complex thickness with optical coherence tomography in migraine patients

Beyza Miskik Özyürek¹, Esra Karer Özyürek², Demire Çelik³

Effect of duration and severity of migraine on retinal nerve fiber layer, ganglion cell layer, and choroidal thickness

Mona K. Abdellatif¹ and Mohamed M. Fouad²

Conclusion: Ganglion cell layer, retinal nerve fiber layer, and choroidal thickness are significantly thinner in patients with migraine. The severity of migraine has more significant influence in the thinning of ganglion cell layer and retinal nerve fiber layer, while the duration of the disease affected the choroidal thickness more.

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Correlation of disease duration with RNFL thickness

AGREE

Abdellatif et al. (2018) found negative correlation between duration and **superior** and **inferior** quadrants of the RNFL.

Gunes et al. (2016)

Feng et al. (2016)

Effect of duration and severity of migraine on retinal nerve fiber layer, ganglion cell layer, and choroidal thickness

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Conclusion: Ganglion cell layer, retinal nerve fiber layer, and choroidal thickness are significantly thinner in patients with migraine. The severity of migraine has more significant influence in the thinning of ganglion cell layer and retinal nerve fiber layer, while the duration of the disease affected the choroidal thickness more.

Is Retinal Nerve Fiber Layer Thickness Change Related to Headache Lateralization in Migraine?

Alihan Güznel¹, Sadem Demirel², Latif Tok³, Özdem Tok⁴, Serpil Demirel⁵, Süleyman Kaftankiran⁶

In our study, a significant correlation was found between headache duration and superior RNFL thickness, and attack frequency and temporal RNFL thickness. However,

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Home Message

- Migraine has strong effect on the posterior ocular structures. The **duration** and **severity** of migraine have **strong effect** on RNFL thickness.
- **Monitoring** RNFL thickness and **performing** visual field tests on migraine patients are required due to the potential axonal damage.



Thank you

