# Clinical Profile and Proportion of Children with Glaucoma and Glaucoma Suspect at a Tertiary Eye Care Center in Uttar Pradesh

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## Abstract

**Background:** A rare paediatric condition called paediatric glaucoma often results in severe vision loss. It consists of a variety of disorders that can be divided into primary, secondary, and acquired subtypes leading to optic neuropathy and visual field changes. To investigate the incidence and clinical features of paediatric glaucoma in a tertiary eye centre in Uttar Pradesh. **Subjects and Methods:** In this prospective and descriptive study, a total of 133 children aged 0 to 16 years who came to the clinic because of a diagnosis of glaucoma or suspicion of glaucoma were included. A detailed history of prenatal period, birth history including birth weight, birth trauma, delayed crying at birth, or hospitalisation for more than 48 hours was obtained. The comprehensive eye examination included visual acuity assessment, gonioscopy, intraocular pressure (IOP) measurement, and assessment of the anterior and posterior segments of the eye. **Results:** The majority of secondary glaucomas were those associated with traumatic glaucoma (56.52%), then those associated with acquired conditions like trauma and steroid-induced glaucoma (19.57%), ANRIDIA was 10.87%, Peters anomaly and Silicon oil induce glaucoma was 4.35%, angle recession and lens induce glaucoma was 2.17%, and finally those associated with acquired conditions like lens and angle recession induce glaucoma ranged in age from 0 to 16 years old. **Conclusion:** In this study, primary glaucoma, which accounted for 42.86% of all juvenile glaucoma (56.52%). Males were more commonly affected (73.24%), with a male-to-female ratio of 2.91.

Keywords: Primary congenital glaucoma.

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## Introduction

Primary congenital glaucoma (PCG) and several acquired conditions belong to the broad category of childhood glaucomas. They can either affect only the eyes when they first appear, or they can be part of a disease affecting several other systems.<sup>[1]</sup> Worldwide, the diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma in children is a difficult problem. Early diagnosis and treatment are needed to prevent longterm visual impairment. However, it appears that they all follow the same path of pressure-induced ocular damage with possible blindness. The stage of presentation, confirmation of the glaucoma diagnosis and its aetiology, timing of intervention, and follow-up all affect the visual outcome of paediatric glaucoma.<sup>[2]</sup> Paediatric glaucoma has an incidence of 1:10,000 to 1:70,000 in Western countries, although it is more common in Saudi Arabia, southern India, and Slovakia, where it affects 1:250 to 1:3300 live births.<sup>[3]</sup> Because of the relatively low prevalence of infantile glaucoma and the associated lower awareness of the problem, there may be a delay in diagnosis and a corresponding decrease in the effectiveness of treatment. [4,5]Thus, a significant proportion of childhood blindness is caused by paediatric glaucoma, which accounts for 5% of

childhood blindness worldwide and has a prevalence of 18% in children living in institutions for the blind.<sup>[6]</sup>

Understanding the unique pattern of paediatric glaucoma in our region and defining our needs are essential steps in developing plans for future intervention. There should be a single, uniform classification method that is adopted by many professionals to provide a clear foundation. Although many classification methods have been developed, none is widely used.<sup>[7,8]</sup>

A single classification system based on clinical findings, timing, and context of glaucoma diagnosis was proposed by the Childhood Glaucoma Research Network (CGRN), an international consortium of glaucoma specialists. The group's goal was to create a clear and understandable categorization so that the majority of clinicians could decide on a systematic basis which category to place a condition in. These categories were used to group people with childhood glaucoma.<sup>[9]</sup>

It is not known what percentage of children receiving tertiary eye care in Uttar Pradesh have each glaucoma subtype. In a referral clinic, treatment options for paediatric glaucoma can be planned based on this information. The aim of this study is to investigate the incidence and clinical features of paediatric glaucoma in a tertiary eye centre in Uttar Pradesh.

# Subjects and Methods

The Prospective longitudinal observational study was Before starting this prospective and descriptive study, we obtained approval from the ethics committee of our institution. This study was conducted in the Department of Ophthalmology, Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh, from April 2021 to March 2022. A total of 133 children aged 0 to 16 years who came to the clinic because of a diagnosis of glaucoma or suspected glaucoma were enrolled in the study. Informed consent was obtained from the guardians of all participants.

A detailed history of the prenatal period, such as medication use or fever with rashes, is obtained. Birth history includes birth weight, birth trauma, delayed crying at birth, or hospitalisation for more than 48 hours. A comprehensive family history was obtained, including consanguinity and the occurrence of similar complaints in family members. The comprehensive eye examination included assessment of visual acuity, gonioscopy, measurement of intraocular pressure (IOP), and assessment of the anterior and posterior segments of the eye. In nonverbal children, visual acuity was determined by a strong preference for one of the two eyes or resistance to occlusion of one of the two eyes or a test of preferred looking.

In verbally gifted children, visual acuity was determined using the Snellen chart or the Lea symbol chart or the E chart, depending on how cooperative and intelligible the child was. Intraocular pressure was measured with a Perkins tonometer under ketamine anaesthesia in noncooperative children and with a Goldman applanation tonometer in cooperative children. In scarred corneas, a rebound tonometer was used. A complete examination of the anterior segment of the eye with a slit lamp was performed. Assessment of the corneal disc was performed by direct ophthalmoscope or slit lamp biomicroscope. Horizontal and vertical corneal diameters were measured with a calliper under anaesthesia or with the slit lamp in cooperative children. In all cooperative children, perimetry was performed with the Humphrey Visual Field Analyzer. A general examination was performed to detect associations with specific syndromes. A paediatric reference will be obtained if needed.

## **Statistical Analysis**

Descriptive statistics included mean and standard deviation for normally distributed variables and median with interquartile range (IQR) for non-normally distributed variables. Categorical variables were summarised as percentages. Pearson's chi-square test was used for proportions and one-way analysis of variance for means. All calculations and graphs were made using Microsoft Excel.

# Results

Table 1 shows the baseline characteristics of children with glaucoma patients. The percentage of age groups < 1 year, 1-4 years, 5-8 years, 9-12 years, and 13-16 years were

9.86%, 11.27%, 24.65%, 26.76%, and 27.46%, respectively. The percentages of male and female were 73.24% and 26.76%, respectively, with a maleto female ratio of 2.91. The percentages of good vision (6/6-6/18), moderate vision (6/18-6/60), strong vision (< 6/60), and very strong vision (< 1/60) were 58.65%, 11.28%, 12.03%, and 18.05% in the right eye (OD) and 71.43%, 12.03%, 6.02%, and 10.53% in the left eye, respectively. The percentage of OD, OS, and OU laterality was 27.78%, 30.95%, and 39.68%, respectively, in children with glaucoma. The percentages of right eye, left eye in one eye, and both eyes were 20.43% and 22.58%; 28.49% and 28.49%, respectively.

Table 1: Baseline characteristics of the patients					
N=133		n	%		
Age (years)	<1 year	14	9.86		
	1-4 years	14	11.27		
	5-8 years	31	24.65		
	9-12 years	36	26.76		
	13-16 years	38	27.46		
Gender	Male	99	73.24		
	Female	34	26.76		
Laterality	OD	38	27.78		
	OS	42	30.95		
	OU	53	39.68		
UCVA (OD)	6/6-6/18	78	58.65		
N N	6/18-6/60	15	11.28		
	<6/60	16	12.03		
	<1/60	24	18.05		
UCVA (OS)	6/6-6/18	95	71.43		
	6/18-6/60	16	12.03		
de 10-	<6/60	8	6.02		
	<1/60	14	10.53		
No. of eye	OD	38	28.57		
involved	OS	42	31.58		
	Both OD+OS	53	39.85		

The percentages of 0.2/1, 0.3/1, 0.4/1, 0.5/1, 0.6/1, 0.7/1, 0.8/1, and 0.9/1 cup ratio were 6.03%, 20.69%, 7.76%, 7.76%, 8.62%, 7.76%, 7.76%, 25.86%, and 7.76% at the right eye (OD) and 6.73%, 21.15%, 8.65%, 6.73%, 6.73%, 14.42%, 10.58%, 14.42%, and 10.58% at the left eye (OS), respectively [Table 2].

Table 2: Cup disc ratio in children with glaucoma.					
	OD		OS		
	n	%	n	%	
0.2/1	7	6.03	7	6.73	
0.3/1	24	20.69	22	21.15	
0.4/1	9	7.76	9	8.65	
0.5/1	9	7.76	7	6.73	
0.6/1	10	8.62	7	6.73	
0.7/1	9	7.76	15	14.42	
0.8/1	9	7.76	11	10.58	
0.9/1	30	25.86	15	14.42	
No/Hazy View	9	7.76	11	10.58	

Table 3 shows cup asymmetry > 0.2, focal rim loss, and HAAB striae in children with glaucoma. The percentage of cup disc asymmetry > 0.2, focal rim loss and OD, OS Haab's striae were 25.23%, 23.36%, 25.23% and 26.17%, respectively. Table 9 and Figure 9 show corneal diameter (mm) in children with glaucoma. The percentage of > 11 in neonates, > 12 in < at 1 year of age, and > 13 at any age

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were 32.43%, 24.32%, and 43.24%, respectively. The frequency of presence or absence of reproducible visual field was 69.44% and 30.56%, respectively.

Table 3: Cup	disc asymmetry>0.2,	focal rim	loss and	d Haab, s
Striaein childr	en with glaucoma			

		n	%
Cup Disc Asymmetry >0.2	Present	27	25.23
Focal rim loss	Present	25	23.36
Haab's striae	Present (OD)	27	25.23
	Present (OS)	28	26.17
Corneal Diameter	>11 in new born	12	32.43
(mm)	>12 in <1y age	9	24.32
	>13 in any age	16	43.24
Reproducible Visual	Present	25	69.44
Field	Absent	11	30.56

Table 4 shows the distribution of intraocular hypertension in the right eye (OD) and in the left eye (OS). Values are expressed as mean, median,  $\pm$ SD, minimum, maximum, and interquartile range (IQR). The range of intraocular hypertension was 2 to 66 at OD and 8 to 50 at OS. Mean intraocular hypertension was 24.71±12.36 in OD and 24.92±10.57 in OS.

Table 4: Intra ocular hypertensionin children with glaucoma							
Intra Ocular Hypertension	Me an	Med ian	Std. Devia tion	Mini mum	Maxi mum	IQF 2 5	75
OD	24. 71	24.0 0	12.36	2	66	1 4	30
OS	24. 92	24.5 0	10.57	8	50	1 6	30. 75

The percentage of Primary glaucoma, Secondary glaucoma and Glaucoma suspect were 42.86%, 34.59% and 22.56% respectively in the study population [Table 5].

Table 5: Primary	glaucoma,	secondary glaucoma and		
glaucoma suspect				
Types of Glaucoma	n	%		
Primary glaucoma	57	42.86		
Secondary glaucoma	46	34.59		
Glaucoma suspect	30	22.56		

Of the 57 cases, a total of 78.95% were congenital glaucomas and 21.05% were juvenile open-angle glaucomas in primary glaucoma; 10.87% of the cases were ANRIDIA, 2.17% of the cases were angle recession, 2.17% of the cases were Lens-induced glaucomas, 4.35% cases were Peters anomalies, 19.57% cases were steroid-induced glaucomas, 4.35% cases were silicone oil-induced glaucomas, and 56.52% cases were traumatic glaucomas in secondary glaucomas [Table 6].

Table 6: Distribution of patients according to different types of diagnosis in primary and secondary glaucoma

	n=133	n	%
Primary glaucoma	Congenital glaucoma	45	78.95
(n=57)	Juvenile Open Angle	12	21.05
	Glaucoma		
Secondary	ANRIDIA	5	10.87
glaucoma (n=46)	angle recession	1	2.17
	Lens induce glaucoma	1	2.17
	Peters anomaly	2	4.35
	Steroid induce	9	19.57
	glaucoma		
	Silicon oil induce	2	4.35
	glaucoma		
	Traumatic glaucoma	26	56.52

#### Discussion

In this study, we characterize different glaucoma subtypes in children presenting to a tertiary ophthalmic institution with glaucoma, as well as their demographic and clinical features. Based on clinical symptoms, chronology, and context of glaucoma diagnosis, we classified glaucoma in children according to the categorization system developed by the Childhood Glaucoma Research Network (CGRN).<sup>[9]</sup> During the study period, there were 133 new glaucoma cases in children (186 eyes). Of these, 42.86% were primary glaucomas, 34.59% were secondary glaucomas, and 22.56% were suspected glaucomas. Congenital glaucoma accounted for the majority of primary glaucoma (78.93%) and JOAG (21.05%) cases. Most secondary glaucomas were associated with traumatic glaucoma (56.52%), then those associated with acquired conditions such as trauma and steroidinduced glaucoma (19.57%), ANRIDIA was 10.87%, Peters anomaly and silicone oil-induced glaucoma was 4.35%, angle recession and lens-induced glaucoma was 2.17%, and finally those associated with acquired conditions such as lens and angle recession-induced glaucoma.

In our study, primary glaucoma was the most common type of glaucoma, accounting for 42.86% of all juvenile glaucoma cases. Similar to our analysis, primary congenital glaucoma was the most common type of glaucoma in childhood in various studies.<sup>[10-12]</sup> In published data, the prevalence of primary congenital glaucoma ranged from 19% to 47% and was bilateral in 62%-82% of cases.<sup>[2,7,10]</sup> In a study by Aponte et al, 63% of cases were acquired glaucoma.<sup>[2]</sup> In a study by Barsoum-Homsay et al, glaucoma was more common in participants with congenital anomalies (46%).<sup>[13]</sup> In a study by Fung et al, secondary glaucoma was the most common, accounting for 45% of cases.<sup>[27]</sup> Trauma and aphakia were the most common causes of glaucoma. In affluent countries, acquired glaucoma.<sup>[2]</sup>

The definitions of congenital glaucoma and JOAG used in the study varied, which could affect the proportion of children identified with these conditions. The age range for JOAG ranged from 3 to 16 years, and primary congenital glaucoma was classified as present at birth, up to 3 months, 1 year, or 3 years.<sup>[10-12]</sup> The primary congenital glaucoma occurring in infancy is the most common form of the disease, followed by late-onset primary congenital glaucoma.<sup>[14]</sup> Neonatal primary congenital glaucoma was not present in any of the patients. However, in a study from India, primary congenital glaucoma with onset in infancy was the most common form.<sup>[13]</sup> In addition, JOAG accounted for 6.7% of primary paediatric glaucoma cases in this study, which is less than estimates from a retrospective study in India in which the condition accounted for 18.8% of all cases of primary childhood glaucoma.<sup>[2]</sup> A whitish appearance of the eyes was the most common symptom in the study population, and nearly three-quarters of the eyes studied had corneal opacities. In publications from Tanzania and Ghana.<sup>[5]</sup>, the majority of patients with primary congenital glaucoma presented with severe disease and an opacified cornea. The present clinical picture is comparable to these cases. The loss of corneal transparency caused by stromal edema due to elevated IOP demonstrates the need for immediate treatment of primary congenital glaucoma. Because this can lead to sensory deprivation amblyopia, the resulting corneal scarring and chronic opacification may have implications for vision.[15]

In our study, the age of children with glaucoma ranged from 9 to 16 years (54.22%). According to Fung et al. (2013), patients with traumatic glaucoma tended to be older, while patients with congenital glaucoma tended to be younger (under 2 years of age) at diagnosis (between 10 and 15 vears of age).<sup>[7]</sup> The median age at presentation of primary congenital glaucoma was three months and ten years for acquired glaucoma. In our study, most children with PCG (80%) showed their first symptoms at about 6 months of age.<sup>[16]</sup> Most studies show that children with primary congenital glaucoma often present between 3 months and 2 years of age.[102,123,124,125] In the British Infantile Glaucoma Study >, 50% of children of Asian descent had their first symptoms at 3 months of age, whereas 52% of Caucasian children did so by 6 months of age. Asian children with primary congenital glaucoma accounted for the majority of those admitted to the emergency department. The younger age of Asian children at diagnosis and selfreport by parents may indicate a more severe course of the disease. Therefore, awareness is critical for early diagnosis and prompt referral by physicians. According to previous study, 55.6% of children with primary infantile glaucoma manifest glaucoma within the first year of life.<sup>[13]</sup> Another study from northern Tanzania found that 55.7% of those with primary infantile glaucoma were up to one year of age. In this study, the percentages of male and female were 73.24% and 26.76%, respectively, with a male-to-female ratio of 2.91. According to various studies, glaucoma frequently affects males.<sup>[17-19]</sup> Fung et al. (2013) Male patients accounted for 56% of the total population, with the highest percentage of male patients in trauma-related glaucoma (72%).<sup>[7]</sup> With a sex ratio of 2.32 to 1, patients with all types of glaucoma were more likely to be male. The prevalence of boys diagnosed with paediatric glaucoma was higher. According to other studies, most cases of secondary glaucoma associated with trauma were male patients.

Affected populations included those with 2.5:1 and 3:2 ratios, suggesting a higher proportion of male children.<sup>[7]</sup> In

contrast, a study found that the gender distribution did not change in children with PCG. Similar results were observed in certain groups.<sup>[16]</sup> The ratio between males and females is the same in both familial and consanguineous cases. Males were more frequently affected by secondary glaucomas than females, with a ratio of 2:1 for glaucomas after cataract surgery and 3.8:1 for acquired glaucomas (trauma and steroid-induced).

In this study, the proportions of OD, OS, and OU were 27.78%, 30.95%, and 39.68%, respectively. Moreover, the majority of patients (39.68%) were affected bilaterally. According to Senthil et al (2019), 85% of interactions were bilateral.<sup>[16]</sup> Several studies also found that 62% to 82% of bilateral.<sup>[7,16]</sup> individuals were Primary congenital glaucoma, the most common form of primary glaucoma in childhood, is typically bilateral and is thought to be caused by anomalies of the anterior chamber angle. The majority of the study population consisted of male patients, and the most common form was bilateral disease, which is also consistent with the Tanzanian study and previous findings on PCG forms from Turkey and Brazil.[17-19]

The mean intraocular pressure in our study was 24.71 12.36 in OD and 24.92 10.57 in OS. According to Fung et al. (2013), the average IOP was less than 21 mmHg in all groups.<sup>[7]</sup> According to the study by Obeidan et al. (2011), Saudi patients with PACG had a mean IOP of 29 mmHg, while the mean IOP in POAG was 27 mmHg.<sup>[20]</sup> The IOP was higher than 40 mmHg in 72% of eyes of glaucoma patients younger than 30 years.<sup>[21]</sup> Although 49% of glaucoma patients in Barbados were treated with medication, the average IOP in these individuals was lower at 27 mmHg.<sup>[22]</sup> We attributed the higher IOPs of patients with congenital glaucoma to their younger age and to the fact that they presented for initial examination without having previously received glaucoma medication. In addition, Tanzanians with gonioscopically proven open angles had an average IOP between 17.7 and 21.3 mmHg, according to Buhrmann et al. (2000). The JOAG group had the highest mean IOP (28.40 10.6 mm Hg).<sup>[16]</sup> The PCG group had the lowest post-treatment IOP (13.27 5.7 mm Hg), while the glaucoma group associated with congenital cataract surgery had the highest (21.26 9.38 mm Hg).

# Conclusion

This study provides population-based incidence rates for diagnosed childhood glaucoma. Of the 133 cases, 42.86% were primary glaucomas, 34.59% were secondary glaucomas, and 22.56% were suspected glaucomas. Primary glaucomas (42.86%) and secondary glaucomas associated with traumatic glaucoma (56.52%) were the most common. Children with glaucoma were between 9 and 16 years old (54.22%). Males were most commonly affected (73.24%). Corneal diameter (mm) > 11 in neonates, > 12 in < at 1 year of age, and > 13 at any age were 32.43%, 24.32%, and 43.24%, respectively.

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