Glaucoma is a disease that causes progressive loss of vision from the death of retinal ganglion cells.¹ One study suggests that at least 25% to 35% RGC loss occurs before visual field loss is detected. In some patients RGC loss may be as high as 50% before field defects are evident.²

In recent times OCT manufacturers have introduced analysis of the Ganglion Cell Complex - but most only cover the central 6mm macula zone. However, “only approximately 50% of RGC’s are present in the macula area with the remainder outside the macula”.³

The images above right show a patient with thinning of the Ganglion Cell Complex that is completely outside the central 6mm macula area. This fine defect is not significant enough to flag on traditional optic nerve/RNFL analysis, and relying on OCT that provides only 6mm Ganglion Cell Complex analysis could also miss the defect.

Nidek’s RS-3000 OCT (all models) can scan a wide 9x9mm area, with exclusive normative data over the same wide area for Ganglion Cell Complex analysis. A recent study concluded that “addition of the GCC thickness outside the macula….significantly increased the glaucoma-discriminating ability of the SD-OCT”.³

So, if you want to improve your glaucoma-discriminating ability, buy a NIDEK!

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¹ Arch Ophthal. 2006;124:853-859
Visual Field Defects and Retinal Ganglion Cell Losses in Patients with Glaucoma Ronald S. Harwerth, PhD, Harry A. Quigley, MD

² Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci 2000;41:741-748
Number of Ganglion Cells in Glaucoma Eyes Compared with Threshold Field Tests in the Same Persons Lisa A. Kerrigan-Baumrind, Harry A. Quigley, Mary E. Pease, Danielle P. Kerrigan, and Rebecca S. Mitchell

Wide 3-Dimensional Macular Ganglion Cell Complex Imaging with Spectral Domain Optical Coherence Tomography in Glaucoma Satoshi Morooka, et al
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