

Early diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma has been found clinically beneficial and cost effective as it significantly delays visual field deterioration. Adherence to glaucoma pharmacotherapy is associated with patient-related, medication-related, physician-related and environmental factors and non-adherence can be both intentional and unintentional. Our purpose was to determine the major causes of nonadherence to medication in patients with open angle glaucoma and to emphasize the importance of doctor-patient communication in enhancing the patients' faith in treatment effectiveness. Patients are driven to nonadherence by an imbalance between their perceived need for medication and their concerns about taking it. Patient-centered communication techniques can engage the patient in shared decision making about medication, thereby redefining the good patient as someone who works with his or her health care provider to address adherence barriers. Key words: Glaucoma patients, adherence, questionnaire, doctor-patient communication.