

## Is Telemedicine the Future of Glaucoma?

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Currently the glaucoma is a main cause of visual impairment and blindness all around the world. Worldwide statistics in 2013 have shown that 64.3 million people are affected. The estimated number of patients suffered from glaucoma will reach 111.8 million by the year 2040 [1]. Affected by glaucoma individuals will continue to suffer and healthcare costs will rise exponentially unless the disease can be diagnosed early and treated effectively [2]. Therefore, a global effort to solve such medico- social problem as a glaucoma must be based on the systematic eye screening, which gives physicians a chance to minimize damage in early detection. Performing retinal screening examinations on all older adults is an unmet need, but hopefully miniaturized and portable ophthalmic diagnostic equipment such as a pocket-sized, solar-powered ophthalmoscope [3] and technological developments in retinal imaging; automatic analysis of retinal photographs by Software [4] and telehealth approach for remote management of cases, will enable ophthalmologists to detect referable glaucoma providing more informed and more cost- effective care everywhere. Workflow and screening will be concentrated at the General Practitioner's office, where retinal photo could be taken and send to be analysed by approved software [5] with the following finally Glaucoma consultant's judgement and individualised management. Glaucoma management algorithm should also incorporate virtual glaucoma clinic advocated by Clarke., *et al.* [6] and Kotecha., *et al.* [7], intended to initiate timely vision-preserving treatment for our patients.

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