

The Problem of Glaucoma and Modern Opportunities

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The worldwide projected increase in the number of people over 60 years of age by 1/3 by 2030 will inevitably lead to an increase in the frequency of glaucoma, as well as blindness and low vision due to it (2022). Currently, glaucoma is the second cause of blindness and the fourth cause of low vision in the world. By 2040, the number of glaucoma patients is expected to approach 111.8 million. In Russia in 2021, more than 1 million 249 thousand people suffered from glaucoma. Part of the new paradigm of the problem of glaucoma is the prevention of low vision and blindness due to it through early diagnosis. In June 2021, World Health Organization (WHO) published a warning about the risks of using artificial intelligence in medicine, since, according to WHO Director-General T. A. Ghebreyesus, ..."Like all new technologies, artificial intelligence has enormous potential to improve the health of millions of people in the world, but like all technologies, it can be misused and harmful".

Developed and clinically tested in Russia more than 20 years ago, a new medical neuro-information technology has demonstrated the wide possibilities of artificial intelligence in the form of self-learning artificial neural networks in the early diagnosis of primary open-angle glaucoma. The use of artificial intelligence has led to a shortening of the diagnostic stage, a decrease in medical, economic and "im-perceptible" costs associated with the period of suspicion of glaucoma, a reduction in direct and indirect costs for diagnosis, contributes to saving personal and public funds and improving the quality of life of patients. All this indicates that artificial intelligence is an excellent tool in the hands of ophthalmologists, working for the benefit of all mankind and not posing any danger to the doctor and the patient.

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