

While the visual field analysis is an important diagnostic tool for many neurologic disorders and ocular diseases, its greatest use is in the diagnosis and management of glaucoma. Uncontrolled glaucoma leads to progressive deterioration or loss of the visual field.

Visual Field abnormalities in Glaucoma consist of lost sensitivity in the peripheral field of vision from small discrete blind spots (called scotoma) to large cuts in the upper or lower peripheral fields extending to the center. The blind spots represent significant damage to the optic nerve which usually cannot be recovered. The blind spots can join to form an arc of blindness. Uncontrolled glaucoma means more optic nerve damage showing a widening arc of increasing density. Further progression will lead to a complete loss of vision.

Both eyes are tested, one eye at a time. One eye is tested while the other eye is covered. While looking straight ahead at a lighted target in an illuminated bowl, pinpoint lights are projected around the target in random locations. The subject is instructed to press a hand-held button each time he/she sees the projected light. The entire field is tested and the procedure may take 15 to 30 minutes.

