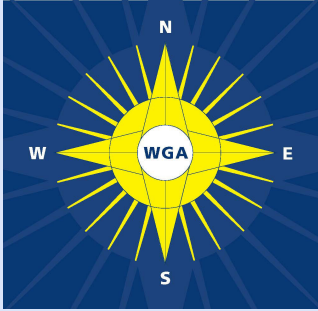


American Academy of Ophthalmology Ratings of strength of evidence (I-III):

Level I provides strong evidence in support of the statement. The design of the study allowed the issue to be addressed, and the study was performed in the population of interest, executed in such a manner as to produce accurate and reliable data, and analyzed using appropriate statistical methods. The study produced either statistically significant results or showed no difference in results despite a design specified to have high statistical power and/or narrow confidence limits on the parameters of interest.

Level II provides substantial evidence in support of the statement. Although the study has many of the attributes of one that provides Level I support, it lacks one or more of the components of Level I.

Level III provides a consensus of expert opinion in the absence of evidence that meets Levels I and II.



***American Academy of Ophthalmology
Ratings of strength of evidence
(I-III):***

Level A, defined as most important

Level B, defined as moderately important

Level C, defined as relevant but not critical.