

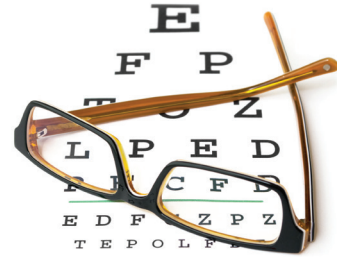
Glaucoma

Facts and tips that may help your eyesight.

What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is the term for a group of eye conditions that result in optic nerve damage. Fluid builds up inside the eye, and the pressure from this fluid can harm the optic nerve. This can then lead to a loss of vision.

In many cases, by the time symptoms begin to appear, the optic nerve has already been damaged.¹ While there is no cure for glaucoma, there are treatments that can slow the disease and help save your remaining eyesight.



Did you know?

- ✓ There are over 60 million cases of glaucoma in the world.²
- ✓ Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness in the world.²
- ✓ Early diagnosis and treatment can help prevent or minimize damage to the optic nerve and limit vision loss.

Treatment options for living with glaucoma¹

1

Medication

People with glaucoma will usually begin treatment by using eye drops. If used regularly, these prescribed eye drops can keep you from losing your vision.

2

Laser surgery

If eye drops are not working to treat your glaucoma, your doctor might suggest laser surgery. This procedure helps liquid drain from the eye.

3

Surgery

Some cases of glaucoma might require surgery. The procedure creates a new drainage channel for liquid to leave the eye.

LET'S
TALK.

Talk to your doctor today
about managing your eyesight.

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Tests to Check for Glaucoma

Know your options.

Glaucoma can progress so gradually you may not notice any loss of vision until the disease is at an advanced stage. That's why it's so important to get your eyes checked regularly.

What can you do?



Vision test

Your doctor will check your front and side vision to determine if your visual field has narrowed.



Pressure test

Your doctor will use a small device called a tonometer to measure the inner pressure of the eye while the eyes are numbed from eye drops.



Dilated eye exam

Eye drops that make your pupils larger will allow your doctor to see into the back of your eye and check for signs of damage or disease.

Should you get screened?¹

Medicare covers an annual glaucoma screening for the following high risk groups:

- Individuals with diabetes mellitus
- Individuals with a family history of glaucoma
- African-Americans age 50 and older
- Hispanic-Americans age 65 and older

**LET'S
TALK.**

Ask your doctor if you should be screened for glaucoma.

¹ American Academy of Ophthalmology, 2017. ² Glaucoma Research Foundation, 2015.

This information does not substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis or treatment of your physician. Always talk to your physician or a qualified health care provider about any questions you may have regarding your medical condition.

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