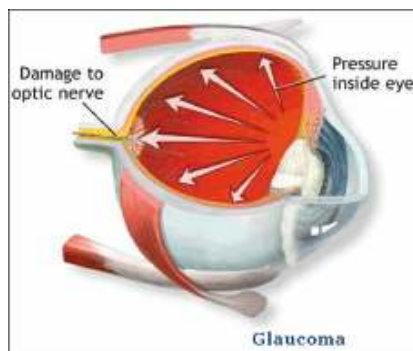


## Treatment

Treatment can prevent vision loss; however, damage caused by glaucoma is irreversible.

Eye drops, laser surgery, and conventional surgery can help prevent further damage. In some cases, oral medications may also be prescribed.

Glaucoma is usually controlled with eye drops taken daily. These medications lower eye pressure, either by decreasing the amount of fluid produced within the eye or by improving the flow through the drainage angle.



Source: macfarlaneoptometrist.com

With any type of glaucoma, periodic examinations are very important to prevent vision loss. Because glaucoma can progress without you noticing, changes to your treatment may be necessary from time to time.

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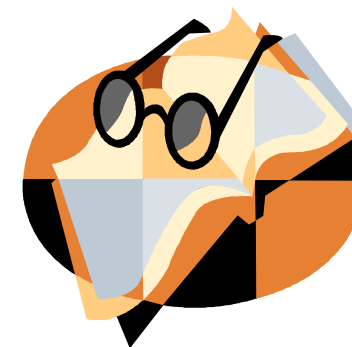
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## Glaucoma



Eye Care America

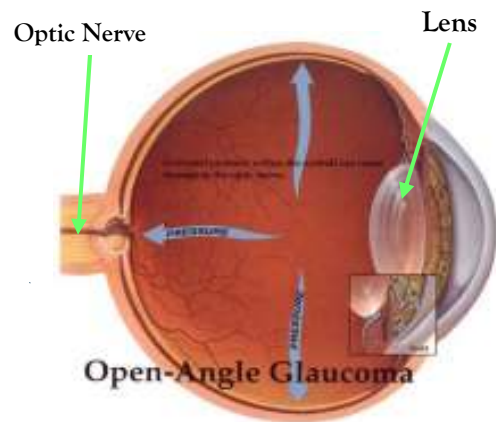
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# Glaucoma

## What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a medical condition where the optic nerve becomes damaged as a result of excess pressure in the eye caused by improper drainage of the aqueous humor. When damage to the optic nerve fibers occurs, blind spots develop. These blind spots usually go undetected until the optic nerve is significantly damaged. If the entire nerve is destroyed, blindness results.



## Symptoms

Chronic open-angle glaucoma is the most common form of glaucoma in the United States. Typically, open-angle glaucoma has no symptoms in its early stages, and vision remains normal.

As the optic nerve becomes more damaged, blank spots begin to appear in your field of vision. You typically won't notice these blank spots in your day-to-day activities until the optic nerve is significantly damaged and these spots become large. If all the optic nerve fibers die, blindness results.

There is a second form of glaucoma which is called closed-angle glaucoma. Some people are born with their iris situated too close to their drainage angle. It is possible for the iris to get sucked into the drainage angle and block it completely. Since the fluid cannot exit the eye, pressure inside the eye builds rapidly and causes an acute closed-angle attack.

Symptoms of closed-angle glaucoma may include:

- ◇ Blurry vision
- ◇ Severe eye pain
- ◇ Headache
- ◇ Rainbow-colored halos around lights
- ◇ Nausea and vomiting

If you have any of these symptoms, call your Eye doctor immediately. Unless this type of glaucoma is treated quickly, blindness can result.

## Tests/Diagnosis

Regular eye examinations by your Eye doctor are the best way to detect glaucoma.

The **tonometry** test measures the inner pressure of the eye. Usually drops are used to numb the eye. Then the doctor or technician will use a special device that measures the eye's pressure.

**Ophthalmoscopy** is used to examine the inside of the eye, especially the optic nerve. In a darkened room, the doctor will magnify your eye by using an ophthalmoscope (an instrument with a small light on the end).

The perimetry test is also called a **visual field test**. During this test, you will be asked to look straight ahead and then indicate when a moving light passes your peripheral (or side) vision.

**Gonioscopy** is a painless eye test that checks if the angle where the iris meets the cornea is open or closed, showing if either open angle or closed angle glaucoma is present.

These tests may need to be repeated on a regular basis to keep track of any changes in your condition.

