

GLAUCOMA



WHAT IS GLAUCOMA?

- Glaucoma is a group of eye disorders characterized by damage to the optic nerve resulting in vision loss
- Damage to the optic nerve is commonly caused by increased eye pressure

SOME RISK FACTORS

- Age: People age 60 or over are at increased risk for the disease
- Race: African Americans are more likely to develop glaucoma than Caucasians, and are more likely to develop permanent vision loss.
- Family history of glaucoma
- Medical conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart disease

IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR EYE EXAMS

- Early detection and treatment can help reduce your chances for vision loss
- It is important to keep up with regular eye exams so your provider can make sure your treatment is up-to-date

TYPES OF GLAUCOMA

- Primary open-angle glaucoma is the most common form and occurs when the eye's drainage system becomes inadequate. Many people do not notice it until they have significant vision loss
- Acute angle-closure glaucoma occurs suddenly with symptoms such as nausea, severe eye pain, redness in the eye and sudden changes in vision. It is important to see your eye care provider immediately if you are experiencing these symptoms
- Secondary glaucoma is caused by physical injury to the eye, medications, various medical conditions, and eye abnormalities
- Low-tension glaucoma is when eye pressure remains normal but damage to the optic nerve still occurs

DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT

- Diagnosis includes a detailed eye exam which involves taking multiple eye measurements while taking into account your medical history
- Treatment starts with medicated eye drops, but could also include surgery, laser treatment, or drainage implants if necessary

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Source: <https://www.aoa.org/healthy-eyes/eye-and-vision-conditions/glaucoma?sso=y>

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