

Your Vision With Glaucoma



Glaucoma is an eye disease that can cause vision loss and blindness if left untreated. It often has no symptoms in its early stages but can be diagnosed early with a comprehensive dilated eye exam.

What is glaucoma?

- Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that can damage the optic nerve, which sends electrical signals from the retina to the brain.
- If it is not treated, glaucoma can cause vision loss and blindness.

How do I know if I have glaucoma?

- At first, glaucoma has no symptoms. Vision stays normal and you feel no pain.
- As the disease worsens, your side vision may begin to fail. Although you may see objects that are straight ahead clearly, you may miss objects to the side.
- An eye care professional is the only person who can tell you whether you have glaucoma.

What would my vision be like with glaucoma?



Normal vision



Vision with advanced glaucoma

Who is at higher risk?

Anyone can get glaucoma, but some people are at higher risk:

- African Americans age 40 or older
- Everyone over age 60, especially Hispanics/Latinos
- People with a family history of the disease

What can I do to protect my sight?

Don't wait until you notice changes to your vision. If you're at higher risk for glaucoma, visit an eye care professional for a comprehensive dilated eye exam every one to two years.

For more information, visit:
www.nei.nih.gov/glaucoma

