



What is Glaucoma?

Narrow-Angle

Narrow-angle glaucoma occurs suddenly, when the colored portion of your eye (iris) is pushed or pulled forward. This causes blockage of the drainage angle of the eye, blocking the outflow of fluids and creating high pressure within the eye. As we age, the lens inside our eyes gets larger, and the eye itself gets smaller, causing the drainage angle to narrow. If the drainage system becomes too shallow, the eye pressure increases, causing pain.

Symptoms

- Eye pain
- Headaches
- Halos around lights
- Dilated pupils
- Vision loss
- Red eyes
- Nausea or vomiting

Narrow angle glaucoma is a medical emergency. Anyone who experiences these symptoms should contact an eye doctor immediately or go to a hospital emergency room.

These signs may last for hours or until the pressure is reduced. With narrow-angle glaucoma, vision may be lost. If the high pressure is not reduced within hours, it can cause permanent vision loss.

Treatment

- LPI – Laser Peripheral Iridotomy
- Cataract Extraction

Open-Angle

In open-angle glaucoma, there is an imbalance in the production and drainage of the clear fluid that fills the space between the cornea and the iris. Your risk for developing open-angle glaucoma increases significantly after age 40 and continues to increase with each additional decade. This is partly because aging can cause drainage channels to shrink or narrow, slowing the outflow of fluid from the eye.

Symptoms

There are typically no warning signs or symptoms of open-angle glaucoma. It develops slowly and sometimes without noticeable sight loss for many years.

Treatment

During an eye exam for pressure, your doctor will check and evaluate your optic nerve. If your eye pressure is elevated or your optic nerve looks unhealthy, your doctor will likely perform visual field tests and specialized scans of your retina and optic nerve to determine if you have glaucoma.

Glaucoma progression can be treated but cannot be cured. Open angle is usually treated with medications or laser treatments.