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GLAUCOMA

Glaucoma is a disease where the optic nerve of the eye is damaged from pressure that builds up in the eye. When the nerve is damaged it causes a loss of vision, usually starting on the side and finally progressing to the center of your vision. Glaucoma is painless and therefore you can have it and not have any symptoms. Glaucoma is not reversible but is definitely treatable.

Certain people are more likely to develop glaucoma. This includes African Americans, patients with a family history of the disease and patients who have certain other eye conditions.

There are 2 main types of glaucoma: open angle (much more common) and narrow angle (more common in other parts of the world). An eye exam can easily determine which type a patient has. The narrow angle type can lead to an attack of Glaucoma where the pressure increases suddenly and the eye becomes very painful. This usually leads to a hospital emergency visit and can cause blindness if not treated quickly. We have experience in dealing with both forms of glaucoma.

The only way to know if you have this disease is to have your eye pressure monitored and your optic nerve examined. This is something we will do during your eye examination. Treatment usually consists of eye drops that are administered daily. We also offer the SLT, an advanced laser unit that can be done in the office. This 5-minute procedure can be used along with, or instead of drops, to help lower the pressure. Finally if the pressure remains eye we offer Glaucoma surgery to help control the disease.

Patients are sometimes told elsewhere that they have glaucoma or are developing it and want a second opinion. We are happy to provide this service and hope we can educate you as to the best course of treatment.