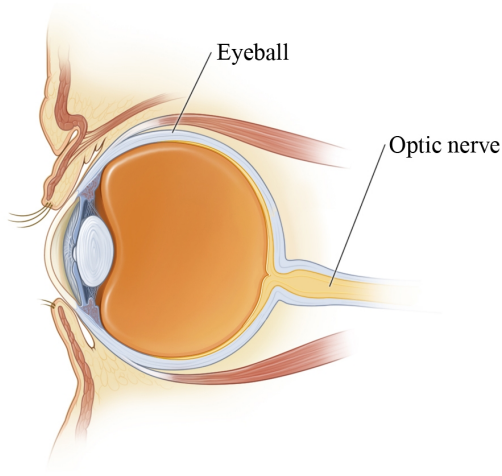


## Your Test: Glaucoma Tests



As you get older, your risk for glaucoma increases. Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness. Having routine eye exams and tests is the best way to find glaucoma early so you can get treatment and delay or prevent blindness.

### What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is damage to the optic nerve cells in the back of the eye. It slowly leads to blindness. Both eyes can be harmed at the same time, but one may be damaged more than the other. Side vision is usually affected first.

Most often, glaucoma is caused by pressure from a buildup of fluid in the eye. It is also possible to get glaucoma after an eye injury or surgery, from diabetes or an eye defect, or rarely, from a swollen cataract. Certain medicines (corticosteroids) used to treat eye inflammation or other diseases may cause glaucoma.

You can have glaucoma without knowing it. When one eye has better vision than the other, it can make up for an area of blindness in the other eye.

### Why is routine glaucoma screening important?

The chance of getting glaucoma gets higher as you age, especially after age 40. Routine screening tests help your eye doctor find the problem early so you can get treatment right away. Treatment cannot restore lost eyesight, but it can help prevent more vision loss. Talk with your eye doctor about how often to have screening.

### How is screening for glaucoma done?

Screening for glaucoma is easy.

An optometrist or ophthalmologist will look for signs of glaucoma as part of a regular eye exam. Your doctor will look into your eyes, measure the pressure in each eye, and test your vision. Tests may include:

- Ophthalmoscopy. Your doctor will look into the back of your eye with a bright light and a magnifying lens.
- Gonioscopy. Your doctor will use a microscope (slit lamp) to look into the front of your eye, where fluid filters and drains out.
- Tonometry. Your doctor will touch the surface of each eye with a tool that measures pressure within the eye.
- Visual field tests. As you look at flashing lights, a grid with a dot, a set of circles and lines, or your doctor's moving finger, you will tell your doctor what you can see. These tests find any gaps in your side vision.

## Questions to ask your doctor

Use the space below to list your questions or concerns. Take this sheet with you to your next doctor visit.

### Questions about screening for glaucoma:



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