

Glaucoma

A group of eye conditions that can cause blindness.

Common

More than 200,000 US cases per year



Treatment can help, but this condition can't be cured



Requires a medical diagnosis



Lab tests or imaging often required

With all types of glaucoma, the nerve connecting the eye to the brain is damaged, usually due to high eye pressure.

The most common type of glaucoma (open-angle glaucoma) often has no symptoms other than slow vision loss. Angle-closure glaucoma, although rare, is a medical emergency and its symptoms include eye pain with nausea and sudden visual disturbance.

Treatment includes eye drops, medications, and surgery.

Ages affected



Symptoms

Requires a medical diagnosis

The most common type of glaucoma (open-angle glaucoma) often has no symptoms other than slow vision loss. Angle-closure glaucoma, although rare, is a medical emergency and its symptoms include eye pain with nausea and sudden visual disturbance.

Can have no symptoms, but people may experience:

Visual: blurred vision, distorted vision, or vision loss

Treatments

Treatment consists of antiglaucoma medications

Treatment includes eye drops, medications, and surgery.

Medications

Glaucoma medication: Lowers eye pressure.

- Travoprost (Travatan Z)
- Pilocarpine (Salagen and Isopto Carpine)
- Latanoprost (Xalatan)
- Brimonidine (Mirvaso and Alphagan P)
- Brinzolamide (Azopt)
- Dorzolamide (Trusopt)
- Bimatoprost (Latisse and Lumigan)
- Dorzolamide / Timolol (Cosopt)

Beta blocker: Slows heart rate and decreases blood pressure. When taken in eye-drop form, it reduces eye pressure.

- Betaxolol (Betoptic S)
- Timolol (Timoptic, Betimol, Timoptic-xe, Istalol, and Timoptic Ocudose (PF))
- Carteolol

Surgery

Laser surgery: Surgery using an intensely hot and focused beam of light to remove tissue and control bleeding.

Medical procedure

Trabeculoplasty: Using a laser to improve fluid drainage in the eye and reduce eye pressure.

Specialists

Optometrist: Diagnoses and treats vision changes.

Ophthalmologist: Specializes in eye diseases.

Consult a doctor for medical advice

Note: The information you see describes what usually happens with a medical condition, but doesn't apply to everyone. This information isn't medical advice, so make sure to contact a healthcare provider if you have a medical problem. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or a emergency number immediately.

Sources: Mayo Clinic and others. [Learn more](#)