

## Understanding Glaucoma Reference Material

### 1. Types of glaucoma

- A. Open-angle/primary/chronic
  - Most common type (90% of glaucoma cases); affects about 3 million Americans
  - Caused by slow clogging of drainage canals
  - Means that the angle where the iris and cornea meet is wide
- B. Angle-closure
- C. Normal-tension (NTG)
- D. Congenital
- E. Other variants of open-angle and angle-closure

### 2. Results in damage to the optic nerve, which connects the retina to the brain

- A. Damage is most likely caused by an increased buildup of pressure within the anterior chamber; the pressure is a result of a clear fluid passing too slowly through the open angle
- B. Damage could also occur due to increased blood pressure
- C. Not everyone with increased eye pressure develops glaucoma; the occurrence of glaucoma is dependent on the level of eye pressure an optic nerve can tolerate

### 3. Controlling pressure inside the eye is essential to the prevention of glaucoma

### 4. Symptoms of glaucoma

- A. Slow loss of peripheral vision
- B. Sense of looking through a tunnel
- C. Blindness

### 5. No cure exists for glaucoma; vision lost cannot be restored

### 6. Immediate treatment can delay progression of the disease

Normal vision.



The same scene as viewed by a person with glaucoma.



### Sources

Facts About Glaucoma. (n.d.). *National Eye Institute, U.S. National Institutes of Health*. Accessed June 25, 2014. [https://www.nei.nih.gov/health/glaucoma/glaucoma\\_facts.asp](https://www.nei.nih.gov/health/glaucoma/glaucoma_facts.asp)

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