ophthalmologist may use one or more of the following treatments.

Medication. Glaucma is usually controlled with eye-drop medicine. Used every day, these eye drops lower eye pressure. Some do this by reducing the amount of aqueous fluid the eye makes. Others reduce pressure by helping fluid flow better through the drainage angle.

Glaucma medications can help keep your vision, but they may also produce side effects. Some eye drops may cause:
- A stingin g or itching sensation
- Red eyes or red skin around the eyes
- Changes in your pulse and heartbeat
- Changes in your energy level
- Changes in breathing (especially if you have asthma or breathing problems)
- Dry mouth
- Blurred vision
- Eyelash growth
- Changes in your eye color, the skin around your eyes or eyelid appearance.

All medications can have side effects. Some drugs can cause problems when taken with other medications. It is important to give your doctor a list of every medicine you take regularly, who will see you regularly. You can expect to visit your ophthalmologist about every 3–6 months.

Summary
Glaucma is a disease that can damage the eye’s optic nerve. When the optic nerve is damaged, it can cause blindness.

Ophthalmologists treat glaucoma with medicine and surgery. Because glaucoma has no symptoms, it is important to see your ophthalmologist regularly, who will check for eye and vision changes.

Glaucoma is a silent thief of sight.

Glaucma has no symptoms in its early stages. In fact, half the people with glaucoma do not know they have it! Having regular eye exams can help your ophthalmologist find this disease before you lose vision. Your ophthalmologist can tell you how often you should be examined.

Your role in glaucoma treatment
Trea ting glaucoma successfully is a team effort between you and your doctor. Your ophthalmologist will prescribe your glaucoma treatment. It is up to you to follow your doctor’s instructions and use your eye drops. Once you are on medication for glaucoma, your ophthalmologist will want to see you regularly. You can expect to visit your ophthalmologist about every 3–6 months.

However, this can vary depending on your treatment needs.

If you have any questions about your eyes or your treatment, talk to your ophthalmologist.

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Ophthalmologists treat glaucoma with medicine and surgery. Because glaucoma has no symptoms, it is important to see your ophthalmologist regularly, who will check for eye and vision changes.

If you have any questions about your eyes or your vision, speak with your ophthalmologist. He or she is committed to protecting your sight.
Glaucoma is a disease that damages your eye’s optic nerve. It usually happens when fluid builds up in the front part of your eye. That extra fluid increases the pressure in your eye, damaging the optic nerve.

Glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness for people over 60 years old. But blindness from glaucoma can often be prevented with early treatment.

**What is glaucoma?**

Glaucoma is a disease that damages your eye’s optic nerve. It usually happens when fluid builds up in the front part of your eye. That extra fluid increases the pressure in your eye, damaging the optic nerve.

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**What causes glaucoma?**

Your eye constantly makes aqueous humor. As new aqueous flows into your eye, the same amount should drain out. The fluid drains out through an area called the drainage angle. This process keeps pressure in the eye (called intraocular pressure or IOP) stable. But if the drainage angle is not working properly, fluid builds up. Pressure inside the eye rises, damaging the optic nerve.

The optic nerve is made of more than a million tiny nerve fibers. It is like an electric cable made up of many small wires. As these nerve fibers die, you will develop blind spots in your vision. You may not notice these blind spots until most of your optic nerve fibers die. It usually happens when the drainage angle is not working properly, fluid builds up. Pressure inside the eye rises, damaging the optic nerve.

**Types of glaucoma**

There are two major types of glaucoma.

- **Angle-closure glaucoma**
  - This type happens when a person’s iris is very close to the drainage angle in their eye. The iris can get stuck against the drainage angle, blocking fluid out of the eye. If the drainage angle is blocked, fluid cannot flow out of the eye, causing pressure to increase.
  - **Primary open-angle glaucoma**
    - This is the most common type of glaucoma. The iris happens gradually, where the eye does not drain fluid as well as it should (like a clogged drain). As a result, eye pressure builds up, damaging the optic nerve. This type of glaucoma is painless and causes no vision changes at first.
  - **Angle-closure glaucoma**
    - This is a rare type of glaucoma that usually affects people who have had cataracts surgery. It usually happens quickly. This is called an ‘acute angle-closure glaucoma attack.’

**Glaucoma suspects.**

Some people have a higher than normal risk for getting glaucoma. This includes people who:

- are over age 40
- have family members with glaucoma
- are of African, Hispanic or Asian heritage
- have high eye pressure
- are farsighted or nearsighted
- have had an eye injury
- use long-term steroid medications
- have corneas that are thin in the center
- have thinning of the optic nerve
- have diabetes, high blood pressure, migraines, poor blood circulation or other health problems affecting the whole body.

**Who is at risk for glaucoma?**

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**How is glaucoma diagnosed?**

The only sure way to diagnose glaucoma is with a complete eye exam. A glaucoma screening that only checks eye pressure is not enough to find glaucoma.

- During a glaucoma exam, your ophthalmologist will:
  - measure your eye pressure
  - inspect your eye’s drainage angle
  - examine your optic nerve for damage
  - test your peripheral (side) vision
  - take a picture or computer measurement of your optic nerve
  - measure the thickness of your cornea

**How is glaucoma treated?**

Glaucma damage is permanent—it cannot be reversed. But medicine and surgery help to stop further damage. To treat glaucoma, your ophthalmologist may:

- use medicine
- perform laser surgery
- perform a microsurgical procedure

Visual field testing is used to monitor peripheral, or side, vision.