

Glaucoma Fact Sheet

- Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness in the United States.¹
- Blindness ranks third (after cancer and heart disease) as a major health fear among Americans.²
- It is estimated that more than three million Americans have glaucoma, but only half of those know they have it.²
- If a person has a family history of glaucoma, his/her risk of developing the disease increases four to nine times.³
- People over the age of 60 are six times more likely to develop glaucoma.³
- Glaucoma is six to eight times more common in African-Americans than Caucasians, and the older age group of the Hispanic population is also at increased risk for developing glaucoma.³
- According to a recent national survey, people with glaucoma are most often cared for by one of their children.⁴
- Glaucoma accounts for more than seven million physician visits each year.²

What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases characterized by damage to the optic nerve. In its early stages, glaucoma may present few or no symptoms and can gradually steal sight without warning.¹ In fact, it is estimated that half of the people affected by glaucoma do not know they have it.² If left undetected and untreated for an extended period of time, glaucoma can lead to blindness.²

One of the major risk factors for glaucoma is elevated intraocular pressure (IOP), or pressure inside the eye. A healthy eye produces fluids, called aqueous humor, at the same rate at which it drains. High pressure occurs when the drainage system is blocked and the fluid cannot exit at a normal rate. This increased IOP pushes against the optic nerve causing gradual damage, which may result in vision loss, usually starting with the peripheral, or side vision.⁵ The higher the IOP, the greater the likelihood of optic nerve damage.⁶ IOP is currently the only treatable risk factor for glaucoma.

Who is most at risk for glaucoma?

- People with a family history of glaucoma³
- People with high intraocular pressure (IOP)³
- Everyone over age 60³
- African-Americans³
- Hispanics over the age of 60³
- People with diabetes³
- People who have used steroids for a long period of time³
- People with physical eye injuries³

How is glaucoma diagnosed?

Routine visits to an eye care professional are the best way to detect glaucoma. A complete eye examination includes measuring IOP and evaluating the drainage angle of the eye and the optic nerve. Additionally, visual field tests are used to evaluate the peripheral vision of each eye.

How can glaucoma be treated?

While there is no cure for glaucoma, it is important to treat the disease aggressively with the most effective products such as a prescription eye drop that can provide maximum reduction of elevated IOP with long-term control. In some cases, surgery can also help. It is important for patients to use medication as prescribed and maintain regular examinations with an eye care professional who can evaluate glaucoma progression and treatment options.

About Allergan, Inc.

With more than 55 years of experience providing high-quality, science-based products, Allergan, Inc., with headquarters in Irvine, California, discovers, develops and commercializes products in the ophthalmology, neurosciences, medical dermatology, medical aesthetics, obesity intervention and other specialty markets that deliver value to its customers, satisfy unmet medical needs, and improve patients' lives.

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2 Glaucoma Research Foundation. "Glaucoma Facts and Stats" http://www.glaucoma.org/learn/glaucoma_facts.html. Accessed April 19, 2007.

3 Glaucoma Research Foundation. "Are You at Risk For Glaucoma?" http://www.glaucoma.org/learn/are_you_at_risk.html. Accessed April 19, 2007.

4 TSC. "Facing Glaucoma: Contrasting Attitudes of Patients and Caregivers." February 2007. (Page 26).

5 Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. "Glaucoma: Introduction." July 18, 2006.

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/glaucoma/DS00283/DSECTION=1> Accessed April 23, 2007.

6 Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. "Glaucoma: Causes." July 18, 2006.

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/glaucoma/DS00283/DSECTION=3> Accessed April 23, 2007.