



Rizzi Geriatric
Associates

THE RIZZI DIFFERENCE NEWSLETTER *∞* JANUARY 2022

January is Glaucoma Month

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that can cause vision loss. Your eyes constantly make a fluid called aqueous humor. This fluid bathes and nourishes the lens and maintains pressure within the eye. As your eye makes this fluid, the same amount of fluid should drain out of the eye through an area of the eye called the drainage angle. This process keeps the pressure within the eyes normal. When the drainage angle is not working properly, pressure inside the eye increases. This increase in pressure can damage the optic nerve leading to vision loss and in severe cases, blindness.

There are two major types of glaucoma: Primary open angle glaucoma and Closed or Narrow-Angle Glaucoma.

Primary open angle Glaucoma: This is the most common type of glaucoma and occurs gradually. This type of glaucoma is painless and has no symptoms at first but as pressure within the eye builds, vision loss can occur. Vision loss occurs gradually and usually starts with the peripheral (side) vision.

Narrow-Angle Glaucoma: This type of glaucoma occurs when the iris is too close to the drainage angle. When the drainage angle becomes blocked, pressure can occur quickly causing an acute emergency. Signs of an acute angle attack can include vision loss and eye pain and this requires a visit to the emergency room.

Risk factors for glaucoma include:

- Anyone over 40
- Family history of glaucoma
- People with a history of migraines, diabetes or high blood pressure
- People with a history of long-term steroid use
- People who are far-sighted or near-sighted
- People of African, Asian or Hispanic heritage





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Diagnosis

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



Treatment

Glaucoma is typically treated with eye drops that help to lower the pressure in the eye. Some eye drops work by reducing the amount of fluid in the eye. Some patients can also opt for laser surgery. The type of surgery performed will depend on which form of glaucoma a person has.

While there is no way to prevent or cure glaucoma, early detection and treatment can prevent blindness or significant vision loss. Regular eye exams are critical.

The team at Rizzi Geriatric Associates are available to answer any questions you may have about your eye health and to help with a referral to a glaucoma specialist!

We are honored to care for you!

www.TheRizziDifference.com