

**Glaucoma** is a group of diseases that can damage the eye's optic nerve and results in permanent vision loss and blindness. There are many different types of glaucoma, but open-angle glaucoma is the most common form of the disease. Glaucoma is known as the "silent thief" of sight because in most cases the victim is unaware that the condition exists. Risk factors of glaucoma include high eye pressure, "cupping" of the optic nerves, ethnicity, age, and family history of the condition.



- Dr. Lyons has detected a risk factor for glaucoma and is considering you as a glaucoma suspect. This does not mean you *have* glaucoma, but further testing is required. The tests will be billed under your medical insurance.
- In evaluation of the risk factors and your visual function, Dr. Lyons has determined that you have glaucoma and medication / surgery is required to control your condition.

Stage:  High Risk/Narrow Angles \_\_\_\_\_  Mild \_\_\_\_\_  Moderate \_\_\_\_\_  Severe \_\_\_\_\_

### Testing for Glaucoma:

**T F** [T represents those test performed today, F are those planned for in the future]

- Intraocular pressure (IOP):** Tonometry is a simple, painless procedure that measures your internal eye pressure (intraocular pressure), after numbing your eyes with drops. It's the initial screening test for glaucoma. Typical "normal" pressure is below 22 mmHg. Your's today: R \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_
- Retinal Imaging:** Since glaucoma is sometimes slow to cause changes, a digital image of the optic nerve is one of the most valuable tests performed, allowing monitoring of the condition over years.
- Visual Field (VF):** Glaucoma typically affects a small area in your nasal field first. A visual field test will carefully measure your peripheral vision and will allow monitoring over time.
- Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT):** An OCT is one of the newer tests available to help diagnosis and monitor glaucoma. This scan allows a 3-dimensional view of the optic nerve and retina to evaluate nerve fiber loss in the eye over time.
- Visual Evoked Potential (VEP):** The VEP is the newest test available for glaucoma. This device measures the function of your entire visual system, from the front of your eye to the back of your brain, by using sensors placed on your forehead and rear of your skull. A delayed response in the signal could indicate that you have damage to your nerve fibers from glaucoma.
- Gonioscopy:** After numbing the eyes, a specially designed lens is placed on the eye to allow the viewing of the drainage system of the eye. This assures that the fluid inside your eye is draining properly. This test is especially useful in evaluating narrow angles.
- Pachymetry:** This measures the corneal thickness. An average corneal thickness is 550um. If the corneas are thicker, IOP will measure artificially higher then the actual pressure. If your corneas are thinner, IOP will measure artifically lower. Your Pachymetry: R \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_