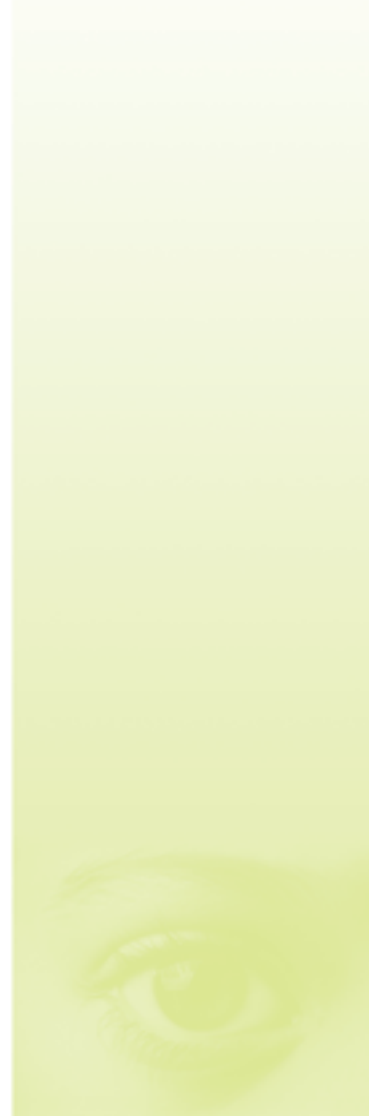




Glaucoma



If 'normal' eye pressure cannot be achieved using eye drops or pills alone, in-office laser therapy may be performed by your doctor to help your eyes drain fluid and achieve a lower eye pressure to prevent optic nerve damage.

Glaucoma surgery may be recommended after medicine and laser procedures fail to control eye pressure. Unlike laser therapy, glaucoma surgery is performed in an eye clinic or hospital. During surgery, a new opening is made inside the eye for fluid to drain and lower eye pressure.

Living with glaucoma:

Once diagnosed with glaucoma take these actions to help your doctor manage your disease:

- Carry an information card that includes the names of your medications, dates of your last and next scheduled checkup and your doctor's name.
- Take your medication regularly and do not skip doses. If you forget a dose of your medicine take it right away rather than waiting for your next scheduled dose.
- Stay in contact with your doctor and report any side effects from medications you may be taking. Some side effects are normal and diminish with time. If you are unable to tolerate your medications, your doctor may change your medications to make you more comfortable.

Many people diagnosed with glaucoma lead normal and unrestricted lifestyles. Regular follow-up visits with your eye doctor will ensure your treatment is preventing further damage to your eyes and give you peace of mind.

Your Eye Care is Our Number One Concern

At TLC Eyecare and Laser Centers, we are committed to providing premier eye care service. Our state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment allows early diagnosis of common eye problems such as cataract, glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy, often before symptoms occur. Our board-certified ophthalmologists and optometrists use the newest technologies and treatments available in the United States today, allowing us to treat eye ailments safely and effectively.

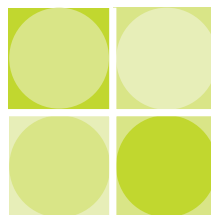
Offering State-of-the-Art Eye Care to Our Patients

Vision is one of the most important of the five senses, and healthy eyes are necessary for good vision. Eye problems can occur at any age, but the chance for developing them increases as we age. Vision problems can affect a person's overall health, causing disability, stress, and a decreased quality of life.

Early detection of eye problems is vital for maintaining healthy eyes. Diagnosing an eye disease in its early stages minimizes its damage and greatly affects the success of treatment. Because many eye ailments have no symptoms until their advanced stages, regular and thorough eye exams with our affiliate network of optometrists are necessary throughout your lifetime to help maintain healthy eyes.

We Make it Easy for You To Maintain Healthy Eyes

With several centers located throughout Michigan and Ohio, our patients enjoy easy access to quality eye care whenever and wherever they need it. Because TLC Eyecare and Laser Centers have doctors on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, our patients have immediate access to treatment for unforeseen eye injuries and accidents.



877.TLC.TIME (877.852.8463)
www.tlceyecare.com

Locations Include:
Adrian, Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Bellevue, Big Rapids, Bryan, Chelsea, Farmington Hills, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Sandusky, Toledo



Take a Closer Look®

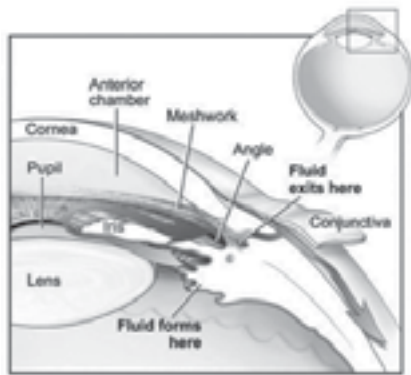
877.852.8463

What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is an eye disease that causes damage to the eye's optic nerve that can result in permanent vision loss or blindness. Nearly 3 million Americans are diagnosed with glaucoma with another 1.5 million Americans unaware they have the disease. Glaucoma is treatable if detected in its early stages.

What causes glaucoma?

Inside healthy human eyes, a steady flow of clear liquid, or 'aqueous', is produced and drained from the eye maintaining constant, 'normal' pressure on the internal structures of the eye. When aqueous does not drain properly from the eye, pressure inside the eye will rise, potentially resulting in permanent damage to the optic nerve in a condition called glaucoma which may lead to permanent vision loss.



What is the optic nerve?

The optic nerve is a bundle of nerve fibers connecting the brain and retina, a light-sensing cell layer lining the back of the eye. Light rays entering the eye and are converted to electrical signals sent through the optic nerve to the brain where they are processed and recognized as images. Damage to the optic nerve interrupts signals normally sent to the brain resulting in permanent vision loss.

What are the symptoms of glaucoma?

Glaucoma has no early warning signs. Only regular eye exams can detect early abnormal changes in the eye and potentially prevent permanent eye damage and vision loss from occurring.

Who is at risk?

Although anyone can develop glaucoma, some people are at higher risk:

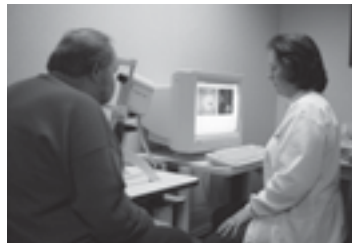
- African Americans over age 40
- Anyone over age 60
- Anyone with a family history of glaucoma
- Diabetics

How is glaucoma detected?

The best way to prevent glaucoma is to have regular eye exams. Eye exams allow your doctor to notice early changes in your eye health and vision, allow treatment to begin early and potentially prevent permanent eye and vision damage.

If you notice any of the following warning signs of glaucoma, contact your eye doctor immediately:

- Loss of peripheral vision
- Blurred vision
- Red, painful eyes
- Halos around lights
- Headaches
- Nausea



HRT measures pressure in the eye.



OCT measures visual field.

During an eye examination your doctor will examine the optic nerve for damage and carefully measure the pressure in the eyes with a painless procedure called 'tonometry'. When a diagnosis of glaucoma is suspected your doctor will perform a test to measure the 'visual field' or 'peripheral vision' in each eye. Early damage resulting from glaucoma typically causes loss of peripheral vision. Periodic visual field testing allows your doctor to ensure your disease is not progressing and to make changes to your treatment if changes are detected over time.

How is glaucoma treated?

Glaucoma can be treated using eye drops, pills, laser therapy or surgery. Medicine in the form of eye drops or pills is the most common method of treatment for early glaucoma. It is important your eye doctor is aware of any medications you currently use before additional medications are prescribed to prevent dangerous drug interactions. Most drugs, including eye drops used to treat glaucoma, have side effects. Your doctor will educate you on any potential side effects you may experience while taking your medications. Although most side effects are mild and may only include stinging or redness of the eyes, changing eye drops can help with certain side effects. Let your doctor know of any changes that occur with your eyes or vision while taking glaucoma medication.

