

## A Look at Two Types of Glaucoma

There are many different varieties of glaucoma, but the most common are chronic open angle and acute closed angle glaucoma.

Chronic glaucoma, the most prevalent type, is painless. It slowly destroys vision without warning. By the time a vision problem is noticeable, irreversible damage may have occurred. Chronic glaucoma can be detected through a routine eye exam. Because it is silent and strikes adults, it is important for people over 35 to have a periodic eye exam.

Acute glaucoma is marked by a sudden, severe pain in and around the eye, sharply decreased vision, nausea and vomiting, and halos around lights. Acute glaucoma can lead to blindness in less than 24 hours. To alleviate the pressure, emergency treatment is required. Surgery or laser treatment may also be necessary to prevent further attacks. In cases where a predisposition is detected, surgery can prevent an attack from happening.

*Progressive stages of glaucoma (normal disc, advanced, far advanced).*

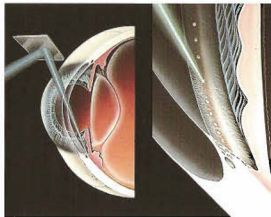


## Treating the "Silent Thief"

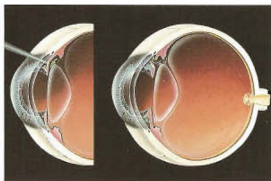
While there is no cure for glaucoma, there are several treatments to keep this silent disease from causing further damage to vision.

Chronic glaucoma is usually treated with eyedrops and/or oral medications to reduce pressure within the eye. Used daily this treatment can be quite effective. Laser treatment may be used in some cases.

*Laser treatment for open angle glaucoma.*



*Laser treatment for narrow angle glaucoma.*



## Are You at Risk?

Glaucoma is not contagious, but it does run in families and often skips generations.

Individuals with diabetes or thyroid problems may be at higher risk. Injuries to the eye, nearsightedness and various eye diseases may also be associated with increased incidence of glaucoma.

Remember, glaucoma can be treated if detected early. Detection of glaucoma requires periodic eye exams. It is especially important for people over 35 and/or those with any of the higher risk factors explained above.