What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a problem with the eye.

No one knows exactly what causes the most common form of Glaucoma. Sometimes it runs in families. Often people with Glaucoma have high eye pressure, but not always.

Some people go blind from Glaucoma. But catching it early helps keep people from going blind.

Some people don’t even know they have Glaucoma until it is too late. That’s why it is so important to have your eyes checked regularly by an eye doctor.

You doctor will look in your eyes to see if there is any damage and to check the pressure.

More information about Glaucoma and your eyes.

This is what you might see before you had Glaucoma.

This is what you might see if Glaucoma took away your vision.

Looking Inside the Eye

If you could look inside the eye, it would look like this.

Glaucoma damages the big nerve at the back of the eye. It happens because the eye doesn’t drain fluid properly so pressure builds up inside the eye and presses on the nerve.
How can I treat it?

Eye drops can help keep people with Glaucoma from going blind.

There are lots of different eye drops so your bottle may look different from this one. They often have different colored tops.

Eye drops for Glaucoma do not make you see better, but lower the eye pressure. **It is important to use the drops every day at the same time to keep the eye pressure low.**

If you have problems that make it hard for you to use your eye drops, tell your doctor. Some drops work better for some people than others.

For more information contact:
Kelly W. Muir, MD
Duke Eye Center
(919) 684 3283