

## Glaucoma Eye Q Test

Glaucoma is a major cause of vision loss and blindness in America. Early detection is important to control the disease and limit its harmful effects. Therefore, it is important that you know as much as you can about glaucoma. Check your knowledge by taking this test. You can check your answers afterwards, then visit the website to obtain more information about this “sneak thief of sight.”

1. Headaches and fuzzy vision are common symptoms of open angle glaucoma.  
 True  False
2. People who have close relatives with glaucoma are at greater risk of the disease.  
 True  False
3. Glaucoma occurs when the liquid that nourishes and bathes the inside of the eye does not drain properly.  
 True  False
4. Nearly 3 million Americans over 40 are affected by glaucoma.  
 True  False
5. Glaucoma strikes all age groups the same.  
 True  False
6. African-Americans are at greater risk of blindness from glaucoma than any other racial or ethnic group.  
 True  False
7. Eye doctors always check for glaucoma during a routine eye exam for new glasses.  
 True  False
8. Once glaucoma is detected it can be cured with medication.  
 True  False
9. Medicare covers a glaucoma screening for certain recipients.  
 True  False



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(continued)



1. **False** Open angle glaucoma has very few symptoms in the early stages. By the time people notice symptoms, a large part of their vision may already have been lost.
2. **True** Glaucoma runs in families. If one family member has it (parents, siblings), others should be checked.
3. **True** The liquid (aqueous humor) build-up inside the eye increases pressure on the optic nerve, causing damage. The optic nerve is responsible for sending information from your eye to the brain to allow you to see.
4. **True** More than 2.7 million Americans age 40 and older have glaucoma. At least half do not know they have it. And as the baby boomer generation ages, the number of people with glaucoma will increase.
5. **False** The older you are, the greater you are at risk for glaucoma (especially if you are over 60 years old). African Americans are at a greater risk at a younger age. African Americans age 40 and over are 4-5 times more likely to have glaucoma than others. Hispanics are also at increased risk for glaucoma as they age.
6. **True** For reasons yet unknown, African-Americans are four to five times more likely to develop glaucoma and six to 15 times more likely to go blind from the disease than other groups.
7. **False** Some eye exams may not include dilating the pupils, which allows the eye doctor to check for possible nerve damage in the back of the eye. When scheduling an eye exam, make sure the doctor includes this procedure.
8. **False** At present, there is no cure for glaucoma. However, eye drops, pills or surgery can help control the disease. It is very common to be prescribed eye drops, which you may need to take for the rest of your life. Follow the instructions for their use closely and do not skip drops.
9. **True** Medicare covers an annual glaucoma screening benefit. There are specific guidelines you must meet to qualify.