



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

1. Headaches and fuzzy vision are common symptoms of 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 eyes does not drain properly.
 True False

4. Glaucoma is a rare disease affecting only a few thousand Americans.
 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 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

GLAUCOMA EYE Q TEST (Continued)



1. **FALSE** 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** A fluid called aqueous humor needs to drain through channels at the front of the eye. In a person with glaucoma, the fluid doesn't drain correctly. The fluid build-up increases pressure on the optic nerve, causing damage.
4. **FALSE** 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, glaucoma numbers will increase.
5. **FALSE** The older you are, the greater you are at risk (especially if you are over 60 years old). African Americans are at a greater risk at a younger age starting at age 40 and older. 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.
9. **TRUE** Medicare covers an annual glaucoma screening benefit since January 1, 2002. There are specific guidelines you must meet to qualify.