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## **Frequently Asked Questions About Glaucoma of the Eye**

### **What is glaucoma?**

Glaucoma is a group of diseases characterized by progressive optic nerve damage and usually occurs when the pressure in the eye is increased, sometimes even when within normal limits.

### **What impact can it have on my vision?**

Patients who have glaucoma gradually lose their peripheral vision, resulting in a shrinking visual field. This can cause difficulties in everyday activities such as driving, walking, sports. At an advanced stage, central vision is also affected, resulting in complete irreversible blindness.

### **How do I know I have glaucoma?**

Glaucoma is a chronic and ever-evolving disease where the decrease in vision is progressive over the years. The patient usually does not perceive symptoms until the disease reaches a very advanced stage or in a few cases where eye pressure rises sharply. For this reason, preventive ophthalmological testing is important by measuring eye pressure and specialized examinations, where the ophthalmologist deems it necessary.

### **How is glaucoma treated?**

The treatment of glaucoma is initially done with special drops that the patient should take daily, for life. If this is not enough, a special surgery and / or laser may be performed.

Drop or surgery therapy aims to reduce eye pressure to safe levels so that vision loss is not aggravated.

The goal of treatment is not to improve vision but to stabilize the disease and maintain existing vision. For this reason, early diagnosis and initiation of treatment in early stages where the loss of vision is relatively small is of particular importance.

### **Does heredity play a role in glaucoma?**

The existence of glaucoma in the family is a major risk factor. Preventive check-ups and periodic re-checks are recommended according to your ophthalmologist's instructions.



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### **Do I need to prevent prophylaxis for glaucoma?**

Glaucoma occurs more often in middle to old age, but in some cases well ahead. It is advisable to have a prophylactic ophthalmologic examination after the age of 40 and then according to the instructions of your ophthalmologist.

### **What should I watch if I have glaucoma?**

It is very important for the patient to understand that drop-wise treatment will be lifetime with a specific dosage, daily. Under no circumstances should it stop or drop it occasionally because there is a risk that its eyes will be diminished.

It is important that ophthalmic examination is performed at regular intervals according to the instructions of your ophthalmologist.