

Welcome to the Glaucoma One Stop Service

Why have I been referred?

You have been referred by your Optometrist or GP because they have concerns that you may have an eye condition called Glaucoma.

What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is the name for a group of eye conditions in which the optic nerve is damaged at the point where it leaves the eye. The optic nerve carries information from the light sensitive layer in your eye (retina) to the brain where it is perceived as a picture.

The eye is filled with fluid that is produced in the middle chamber of the eye, this fluid flows around the eye to the front chamber before draining out through a drainage meshwork, in the most common type of glaucoma these drainage channels become blocked causing too much fluid in the eye which then presses on the nerve. Untreated, glaucoma can cause a loss of peripheral vision at first and ultimately the central vision, loss of vision is irreversible.

What to expect on the day of your appointment

You will have a number of tests in order to help us make a diagnosis including:

1. **Visual acuity** - how far each eye can read down the letter chart
2. **Visual field test** - how much you can see when looking forward, at the edges of your vision
3. **Eye pressure** - how much fluid is in your eye
4. **The thickness of your cornea** - the clear window over the front of your eye as this affects eye pressure readings and possibly risk of glaucoma
5. **Gonioscopy** - a contact lens view of the drainage angle in your eye where the fluid leaves it
6. **Fundoscopy** - The appearance of your optic nerve will be looked at by the Doctor
7. **GDX scan** - which reveals the health status invisible nerve fibre layer on the retina (photograph)
 - **Please allow 2- 3 hours for all these tests to be completed**
 - **Please bring your glasses with you**
 - **Don't drive as you will have eye drops placed in your eyes.**

If you have any further questions,
please call the Eye Care Centre on 01270 612209.

This information is available in audio, Braille and other languages. To request a copy, please contact the Patient Information Co-ordinator.

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