**Understanding Glaucoma Reference Material**

1. **Types of glaucoma**
   1. Open-angle/primary/chronic

* Most common type (90% of glaucoma cases); affects about 3 million Americans
* Caused by slow clogging of drainage canals
* Means that the angle where the iris and cornea meet is wide
  1. Angle-closure
  2. Normal-tension (NTG)
  3. Congenital
  4. Other variants of open-angle and angle-closure

1. **Results in damage to the optic nerve, which connects the retina to the brain**
   1. Damage is most likely caused by an increased buildup of pressure within the anterior chamber; the pressure is a result of a clear fluid passing too slowly through the open angle
   2. Damage could also occur due to increased blood pressure
   3. Not everyone with increased eye pressure develops glaucoma; the occurrence of glaucoma is dependent on the level of eye pressure an optic nerve can tolerate
2. **Controlling pressure inside the eye is essential to the prevention of glaucoma**
3. **Symptoms of glaucoma**
   1. Slow loss of peripheral vision
   2. Sense of looking through a tunnel
   3. Blindness
4. **No cure exists for glaucoma; vision lost cannot be restored**
5. **Immediate treatment can delay progression of the disease**

**Normal vision. The same scene as viewed by a person with glaucoma.**



**Sources**

F[acts About Glaucoma. (n.d.). *National Eye Institute, U.S. National Institutes of Health*](http://www.bibme.org/website)*.* Accessed June 25, 2014. https://www.nei.nih.gov/health/glaucoma/glaucoma\_facts.asp

T[ypes of Glaucoma. (n.d.). *Glaucoma Research Foundation.* Accessed June 25, 2014.](http://www.bibme.org/website) http://www.glaucoma.org/glaucoma/types-of-glaucoma.php