Understanding Glaucoma Reference Material

1. **Types of glaucoma**
   A. 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
   B. Angle-closure
   C. Normal-tension (NTG)
   D. Congenital
   E. Other variants of open-angle and angle-closure

2. **Results in damage to the optic nerve, which connects the retina to the brain**
   A. 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
   B. Damage could also occur due to increased blood pressure
   C. 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

3. **Controlling pressure inside the eye is essential to the prevention of glaucoma**

4. **Symptoms of glaucoma**
   A. Slow loss of peripheral vision
   B. Sense of looking through a tunnel
   C. Blindness

5. **No cure exists for glaucoma; vision lost cannot be restored**

6. **Immediate treatment can delay progression of the disease**

![Normal vision.](image1)

![The same scene as viewed by a person with glaucoma.](image2)

**Sources**


These Eyes! Lesson—Understanding Glaucoma Reference Material