Vision

Are you at risk of getting glaucoma?

Glaucoma is the nation's leading cause of preventable blindness. It is caused by increased pressure in the eye which damages the part of the eye which sends information from your eye to your brain. If untreated, this can cause blindness.

In glaucoma's most common form there are almost no warning signs. By the time the problem can be noticed, vision damage has already happened.

The best way to protect your sight is to have an annual eye exam. This is an important first step toward your overall eye health. If you do have glaucoma, early diagnosis and treatment can help save your sight.

People with a higher chance for getting glaucoma include:

- People older than age 60
- African-Americans older than age 40
- People with a family history
- People who have had an eye injury
- Diabetics
- Those who take certain medications, such as asthma medications (corticosteroids)

Regular appointments with your eye doctor can catch glaucoma early - before you notice symptoms. It is recommended that people with a higher chance of getting glaucoma have a dilated eye exam every one to two years.

An estimated 4 million Americans have glaucoma.

Half of them don't even know they have it.

Having glaucoma doesn't have to mean blindness.

Talk to your eye doctor about how to protect your sight.

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