



*Complete eye care
services in a comfortable
and caring environment.*



Northern Eye

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Glaucoma

The front part of the eye is filled with a clear fluid (aqueous humor). The fluid flows out through the pupil and is then absorbed into the bloodstream through the eye's drainage system. Proper drainage helps keep eye pressure at a normal level. The inner pressure of the eye (intraocular pressure) depends on the amount of fluid in the eye. If your eye's drainage system is working properly, then fluid can drain freely and prevent a buildup.

Glaucoma is an eye disease in which the eye's drainage system becomes clogged, so the intraocular fluid cannot drain. As the fluid builds up, it causes pressure to build inside the eye. Certain pressures can damage the sensitive optic nerve and results in vision loss. Every person is different in how high of an intraocular pressure their body can tolerate before it causes damage. Some people can hit a high pressure, but as long as there is no harm to the eye, they may not have glaucoma. Some people with lower number pressures can have damage to the eye, even though their pressure would be considered low; they would still be labeled as having glaucoma.

Glaucoma is diagnosed by checking the intraocular pressure, the shape and color of the optic nerve, the complete field of vision, and by the angle in the eye where the iris meets the cornea.

People diagnosed with glaucoma and those who are at risk (called glaucoma suspects) must routinely complete a test called a **Tomography**, which takes a picture of the nerve head where glaucoma attacks and a **Visual Field**, which measures the peripheral vision. According to the Standard of Care, patients diagnosed with glaucoma should be seen three to four times within a year and patients who are listed as glaucoma suspects should be seen at least twice a year.

Treatment of glaucoma ranges from observation, to medications, such as glaucoma eye drops, laser treatments, and even surgery. Although there is no cure for glaucoma, it can be controlled. Treatment for glaucoma is a lifelong commitment.

Glaucoma can be a hereditary characteristic. Just as you would alert your family members to having cancer or diabetes, it is also important to let them be aware they have a family history of glaucoma. People with a close family history of glaucoma are sometimes deemed suspects and under go the same testing's as a person with glaucoma.

Dr. Currier will diagnose and treat your glaucoma in our Alpena or Rogers City office tailoring the best treatment for you. Your therapy may differ from others you know just as your eyes and health issues are different from others you know.