

Glaucoma

What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is the leading cause of irreversible blindness in the world. It is caused by high pressure inside the eye, which leads to damage of the optic nerve that connects your eye to the visual centre in the brain.

Glaucoma affects your field of vision, normally in the periphery but central vision can also be affected. If untreated more and more vision is lost which can lead to irreversible blindness. Glaucoma can run in families so it is important to get checked if someone in your family has glaucoma.

Why does the eye pressure go up?

Clear fluid called aqueous is constantly being produced in the eye and is drained through a special membrane called the trabecular meshwork in the front chamber of the eye. In glaucoma the drainage is affected and so the pressure goes up.

Are there different types of Glaucoma?

There are two main types of glaucoma: open angle and closed angle glaucoma.

Open-angle glaucoma is the most common type of glaucoma in the UK. Eye pressure becomes high due to the drainage meshwork not working well enough to drain the fluid. Vision loss is often slow and painless so patients are not aware of the problem until the disease is already quite advanced.

Closed-angle glaucoma occurs when there is a blockage before the drainage meshwork. Eye pressure can rise quickly and can be accompanied with pain, blurred vision, haloes around lights, nausea and vomiting. This type of glaucoma requires prompt treatment to prevent rapid visual loss.

How is Glaucoma treated?

As damage from glaucoma is irreversible the key to treating glaucoma is early diagnosis. Treatment options include drops or laser initially with surgery usually reserved for more advanced cases. Laser for glaucoma is painless and effective and is now becoming used more and more as the initial treatment as people do not like putting eye drops which can sting or make the eye red. Mr Ratnarajan offers the latest glaucoma laser treatments to lower the eye pressure.

Glaucoma surgery is going through a period of innovation for which Mr Ratnarajan is leader in the field. Minimally invasive glaucoma surgeries (MIGS) are becoming safer and more predictable and Mr Ratnarajan can discuss if you are suitable for these. These surgeries can often be combined with cataract surgery, only adding a few minutes to the surgery.

If you would like to discuss the diagnosis and/or treatment for glaucoma you can contact Mr Ratnarajan on:

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