

Glaucoma types

Glaucoma can be divided into groups depending on the cause of the problem within the eye.

The most common group is where the the eye is structurally normal with no visible impediment to drainage of the eye, and sometimes the eye pressure is raised. This is called Primary Open Angle Glaucoma. This type is most common and may run in families. If the pressure is never raised, it may be called Normal Tension Glaucoma.

Another group of glaucoma is related to crowding of structures in the front of the eye. This is angle closure. A crowded eye with glaucoma is known as Primary Angle Closure Glaucoma.

There are also less common types of Secondary Glaucoma. These are caused by other eye conditions, which result in a high eye pressure. For example in exfoliation syndrome protein is released in the eye which can block the drainage structure. In neovascular glaucoma the growth of abnormal blood vessels causes contracting tissue to pull the iris forward, blocking the drainage structure. In every example of secondary glaucoma the primary eye condition causes failure of drainage and raised pressures, resulting in glaucoma damage to the optic nerve.