

What is glaucoma?

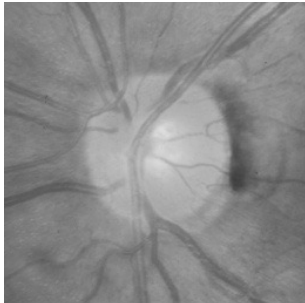
Glaucoma is accelerated wear and tear of the optic nerve. As the optic nerve loses nerve fibres, there is gradual loss of the peripheral vision.

We are born with around one million nerve fibres in each optic nerve, taking vision from the eye to the brain. As we go through life, we are slowly losing these fibres. We can lose half of the nerve fibres before there is any loss of peripheral vision.

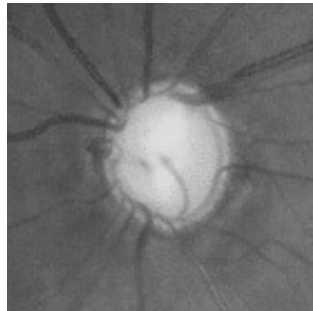
In glaucoma, this age-related wear and tear is accelerated so that vision may be lost before the end of life. This leads to characteristic changes in the appearance of the optic disc. Peripheral vision is slowly lost and usually this is not noticeable.

Treatment to lower the eye pressure aims to slow down the deterioration, and hold onto vision as long as possible.

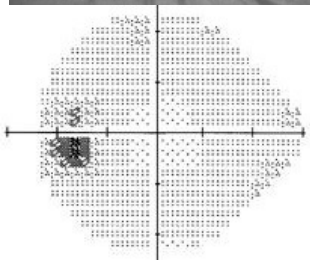
Normal healthy optic disc



Advanced glaucoma optic disc



Normal visual field



Advanced glaucoma visual field

