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Glaucoma Information

Glaucoma is a problem Dr. Fucigna and his staff will help you address. Glaucoma is caused by painless increased pressure in the eye, which damages the optic nerve. Dr. Fucigna will mitigate this damage by creating a specialized plan based on your risk, which includes age, family history, and other systemic health problems. When damage to the optic nerve occurs, blind spots develop which can lead to complete blindness. Glaucoma and your intraocular pressure (IOP) are monitored in our office through multiple visits and close observation.

On some visits you will be *dilated* which allows Dr. Fucigna to have a good view your optic nerve and for the technicians to take measurements of your retina (the back of your eye). On other visits you will complete visual field testing and other optic nerve imaging. During each visit your eye pressure will personally be checked by Dr. Fucigna.

Treatment

When intervention is needed there are some 256 combinations of eye drops available. But let's start with one.

Glaucoma Drops: lower eye pressure

- These drops are prescribed by Dr. Fucigna and maybe started as once a day or more
- (Here is a HINT): hold down your lower lid to instill the drop, and wait at least 5 minutes before the next drop

Surgical intervention might be the next step: laser and stents

Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT): controls intraocular pressure

- Outpatient procedure performed by Dr. Fucigna at the Tully Center

Stent placement: one type is an iStent

- Outpatient procedure performed by Dr. Fucigna at the Tully Center
- A stent may be placed individually or during cataract surgery