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## GLAUCOMA EYE Q TEST

Glaucoma is a major cause of blindness and vision loss in America. Early detection is important to control the disease and limit its harmful effects. It is important that you know as much as you can about glaucoma. Check your knowledge by taking the test below. Then check your answers on the back, where you can also learn how to obtain more information about this “sneak thief of sight.”

1. People with diabetes are more likely to develop glaucoma.  
*True* \_\_\_ *False* \_\_\_
2. Headaches and fuzzy vision are common symptoms of glaucoma.  
*True* \_\_\_ *False* \_\_\_
3. People who have close relatives with glaucoma are at greater risk of the disease.  
*True* \_\_\_ *False* \_\_\_
4. Glaucoma occurs when the liquid that nourishes and bathes the eyes does not drain properly.  
*True* \_\_\_ *False* \_\_\_
5. Glaucoma is a rare disease affecting only a few thousand Americans.  
*True* \_\_\_ *False* \_\_\_
6. Glaucoma strikes all age groups the same.  
*True* \_\_\_ *False* \_\_\_
7. African-Americans are at greater risk of blindness from glaucoma than any other ethnic group.  
*True* \_\_\_ *False* \_\_\_
8. Eye doctors always check for glaucoma during a routine eye exam for new glasses.  
*True* \_\_\_ *False* \_\_\_
9. Once glaucoma is detected it can be cured with medication.  
*True* \_\_\_ *False* \_\_\_
10. Medicare covers a glaucoma screening for certain recipients.  
*True* \_\_\_ *False* \_\_\_

Turn Over

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness America is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness America touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening training, community and patient service programs and research.

# EYE Q TEST ANSWERS

1. **TRUE** Glaucoma is one of three common eye diseases that can happen to people with diabetes. If you have diabetes, it's crucial that you visit your eye doctor for a complete eye exam that includes dilating the pupils.

2. **FALSE** Glaucoma has very few symptoms in the early stages. By the time people notice symptoms, a large part of their vision may already have been lost.

3. **TRUE** Glaucoma runs in families. If one family member has it, others should be checked.

4. **TRUE** A fluid called aqueous humor needs to drain through channels at the front of the eye. In a person with glaucoma, the fluid doesn't drain correctly. The fluid build-up increases pressure on the optic nerve, causing damage.

5. **FALSE** More than 2.2 million Americans age 40 and older have glaucoma. At least half do not know they have it. And as the baby boomer generation ages, glaucoma numbers will increase.

6. **FALSE** African-Americans show signs of glaucoma starting at age 35, other groups show signs after age 40. Caucasians age 50 and older are also at an increased risk of developing glaucoma.

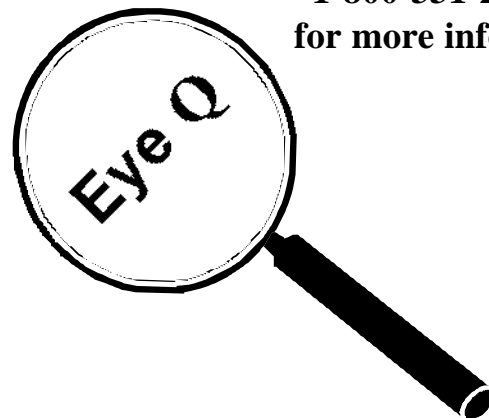
7. **TRUE** For reasons yet unknown, African-Americans are four to five times more likely to develop glaucoma and six to 15 times more likely to go blind from the disease than other groups.

8. **FALSE** Some eye exams may not include dilating the pupils, which allows the eye doctor to check for possible nerve damage in the back of the eye. When scheduling an eye exam, make sure the doctor includes this procedure.

9. **FALSE** At present, there is no cure for glaucoma. However, eye drops, pills or surgery can help control the disease.

10. **TRUE** Medicare covers an annual glaucoma screening benefit since January 1, 2002. There are specific guidelines you must meet to qualify.

**Call the PBA Vision Health  
Resource Center at  
1-800-331-2020  
for more information.**



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