

# What Seniors & Caregivers Need to Know About Glaucoma

**Glaucoma is the second leading cause of blindness.** Yet, few people know about it. Here are the facts you need to know.

More than 3 million people in the United States have glaucoma. Many of those who have glaucoma are seniors. Many of those who have glaucoma don't know they have it because the disease often doesn't come with symptoms. Unfortunately, when glaucoma goes untreated, it can lead to serious complications, including as blindness.

## What you need to know...

### What is Glaucoma?

The term "glaucoma" actually describes different kinds of eye diseases that damage the optic nerve. Some examples of types of glaucoma include:

- Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma
- Angle-Closure Glaucoma
- Secondary Glaucoma
- Normal Tension Glaucoma

Each kind of glaucoma has its own unique features. All are related to pressure in the eye. Most progress gradually and subtly. As a result, many people experience no symptoms.

### How Serious is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is considered a sneaky disease because it presents with so few symptoms. However, the disease is serious. If left untreated, glaucoma causes vision loss and eventually blindness.

Acute types of glaucoma are the exception and are also serious. They are accompanied by sudden, severe symptoms like redness, nausea, and severe pain with blurriness or visual disturbances. Emergency treatment is necessary to prevent blindness.