

# THE FAMILY VAN

*We are Family*

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## GLAUCOMA

### What is Glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a **group of eye diseases** that gradually lead to **loss of eye sight**. It steals eye sight without warning. The gradual loss of vision in Glaucoma leads to blindness by damaging nerves in the eyes. In the early stages of the disease, there may be no symptoms. Experts estimate that half of the people affected by glaucoma may not know they have it.

#### Four Key Facts About Glaucoma

- GLAUCOMA IS A LEADING CAUSE OF **BLINDNESS**
- THERE IS **NO CURE FOR GLAUCOMA BUT REGULAR EYE- EXAM HELPS PREVENT IT**
- EVERYONE IS **AT RISK FOR GLAUCOMA BUT AFRICAN AMERICANS ARE AT HIGHER RISK**
- THERE MAY BE **NO SYMPTOMS TO WARN YOU OF GLAUCOMA SO GET TESTED EARLY**

### What Causes Glaucoma?

It was once thought that high pressure within the eye is the main cause of the damage to the nerves in the eyes. Although the increase in eye pressure is clearly a risk factor, we now know that other factors must also be involved because even people with “normal” levels of pressure can experience vision loss from glaucoma.

### Is There a Treatment for Glaucoma?

**There is no cure for glaucoma**—yet. However, medication or surgery can slow or prevent further vision loss. The appropriate treatment depends upon the type of glaucoma among other factors. Getting tested for glaucoma early on is vital to stopping the progress of this disease.

### Is There a Test for Glaucoma?



There are at least four common tests for Glaucoma. The simplest one is through a glaucoma screening machine, similar to the kind used at The family Van as shown here in the picture on the left. This test is usually called “Glaucoma Screening”.

### How is This Test Done on The Family Van ?

This is a **very simple test which does NOT require any special preparation or medicine or surgery or any invasive procedure**. The test takes only between **5-10 minutes**. It simply involves looking at a small screen in the Glaucoma Testing Machine for a few minutes and the machine then gives you your result right away indicating if you may or may not have glaucoma. This kind of test we do at The Family Van is just a **preliminary test**. Through this test, those found to be at risk for glaucoma will be referred by the Family Van to an eye doctor.

