

Laser Scanning Vital in Detecting Glaucoma

WHAT IS GLAUCOMA?

Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of blindness throughout the world affecting millions of people. Glaucoma is a disease of the eye that causes damage to the optic nerve. The optic nerve is the pathway that carries the images we see to the brain. If left untreated, the disease can destroy the optic nerve leading to loss of vision.

ARE YOU AT RISK?

Glaucoma can affect anyone. However, several factors that increase a person's risk include:

- Increasing Age
- African-American or Hispanic Heritage
- High Blood Pressure
- Family History
- Diabetes
- Nearsightedness
- Long-Term Steroid Treatment
- Injury or Trauma to the Eye

HOW IS GLAUCOMA DETECTED?

To date, with proper medical care, glaucoma may be treated and controlled. Since most people with glaucoma experience no noticeable symptoms, an eye examination for glaucoma including specialized testing is the most important tool in preventing vision loss from the disease.

During your exam, your doctor may determine that a Heidelberg Retina Tomograph test is needed.

The Heidelberg Retina Tomograph is a system that combines a laser scanning camera and specialized software that evaluates the optic nerve. The HRT may help diagnose glaucoma years before symptoms become apparent to most patients.



The HRT gives precise measurements of size, depth and shape of the optic nerve and is especially useful at detecting small changes over time.

THE HRT EXAM

The HRT exam takes just a few moments; it is a painless, non-invasive test and dilation of the eye is usually not necessary. The HRT is an accurate way to follow your progress and your doctor may order repeat exams periodically to check your progress.

PROTECT YOUR VISION

Remember that the key to controlling glaucoma is catching it early. The best way to prevent vision loss from glaucoma is to know your risk factors and to have eye examinations at appropriate intervals.

