

Glaucoma in children



Early treatment can help protect your child's vision.

Information for parents from the 3V2 Eye Clinic

Hogarth Family and Pioneer Energy Ophthalmology Centre
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What is glaucoma?

Glaucoma is a condition in which the pressure in the eye is higher than normal.

Over time, the increased pressure can damage the eye.

How does glaucoma affect the eye?

Increased eye pressure may make the eyeball get bigger. This is like a balloon expanding as more air is added.

If the eye pressure is high for too long, it can damage the optic nerve at the back of the eye. The optic nerve carries the light signals from the eye to the brain. If the optic nerve is damaged, there is a loss of vision.

How does a child get glaucoma?

A child may:

- be born with glaucoma (this is called congenital glaucoma)
- develop glaucoma along with another eye condition
- develop glaucoma after an eye injury or cataract surgery

How do I know if my child has glaucoma?

Glaucoma is usually painless, so you and your child may not know it is there.

Some signs of glaucoma are:

- unusually large eyes
 - watery eyes
 - cloudy eyes
 - sensitivity to sunlight
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How does the eye doctor test for glaucoma?

If the eye doctor is concerned that your child may have glaucoma, he or she will:

- examine your child's eyes to check for damage to the optic nerve, and
- do special tests to measure the pressure in the eye.

You can read more about these tests in the parent information sheet "Eye examination under anesthetic".

Can glaucoma be treated?

Glaucoma may be treated with:

- eye drops or medication
- laser treatment
- surgery

If your child has glaucoma, the eye doctor will discuss the treatment with you.



**If you have questions or concerns
please call the Eye Clinic at 905-521-2100, ext 72400.**