

# Glaucoma Glossary



These are some of the common terms that you may encounter when learning more about glaucoma. Understanding these words and your condition may help you have a more productive conversation with your eye care specialist.

**Aqueous humor:** The clear liquid inside the front part of the eye.

**Cornea:** The clear outer layer at the front of the eye.

**Intraocular pressure (IOP):** The inner pressure of the eye.

**mmHg:** A unit of measure for eye pressure.

**Ocular hypertension (OAH):** When the pressure inside the eye (intraocular pressure or IOP) is higher than normal, but the optic nerve looks normal and there are no signs of vision loss.

**Open-angle glaucoma (OAG):** This form of glaucoma usually starts very slowly as the eye's drainage canals gradually become clogged. There are no early warning signs for open-angle glaucoma, which is why it is often called the "sneak thief of sight." Unlike ocular hypertension, open-angle glaucoma is associated with evidence of optic nerve damage and progressive visual field loss.

**Ophthalmologist:** An eye care specialist who treats disorders and diseases of the eye.

**Optic nerve:** The nerve in the back of the eye that carries visual images to the brain.

**Optometrist:** A healthcare professional who provides primary vision care. This may include giving eye exams, writing prescriptions for glasses, and treating certain eye diseases.