



NORTHWEST EYE SURGEONS

Glaucoma evaluations: A four-step process

We take great care when evaluating and treating all patients. Here, we present a step-by-step summary of glaucoma evaluations to give doctors and patients insight about this thorough four-step process. Patients should expect to spend about 2 hours in our office and their eyes will be dilated for this consultation. This may be extended if visual fields (VF) are included.

Step 1: Work up

Estimated time: 20-30 minutes

The first step in evaluating potential glaucoma patients is getting to know them and their vision-related issues. With each patient, we complete a health, ocular and family history and review current medications. We analyze present illnesses and symptoms and conduct a visual system check—measuring blood pressure, pulse, visual acuity, muscle motility, pupils, intraocular pressure, angle grade, corneal thickness, and confrontation visual field.

Step 2: Initial evaluation and gonioscopy

Estimated time: 10 minutes

Visual field and OCT tests will be ordered if not sent with the request for consultation. We attempt to accommodate the patient the same day, but these tests might require a separate visit.

Step 3: Dilation

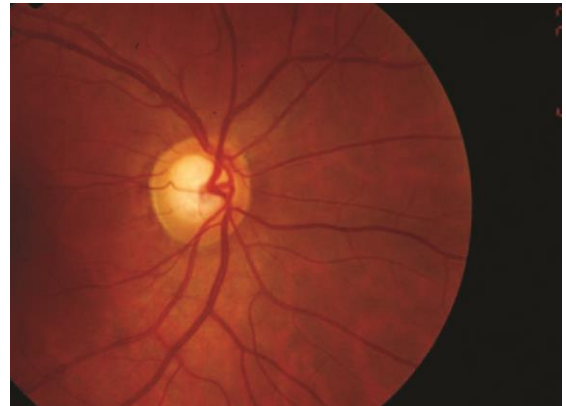
Estimated time: 20-30 minutes

Step 4: Surgery review and schedule

Estimated time: 20 minutes

After the patient is dilated, we conduct an ophthalmic examination. We then review the results with the patient and discuss treatment options including laser, incisional surgery and/or drops. We may recommend follow-up care with the referring doctor and with us, if indicated.

The time required for the glaucoma consultation can be shortened if the referring doctor forwards, in advance, all prior threshold visual field testing and color printouts of nerve fiber layer analysis (GDx, HRT, OCT).



optic nerve suspicious for glaucoma

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