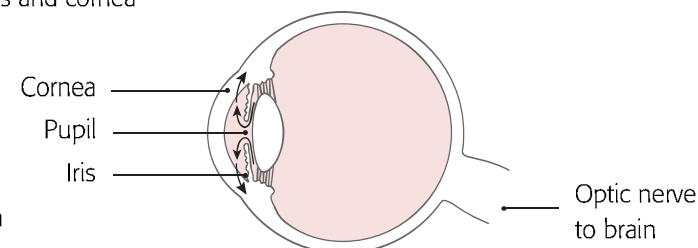


Acute glaucoma

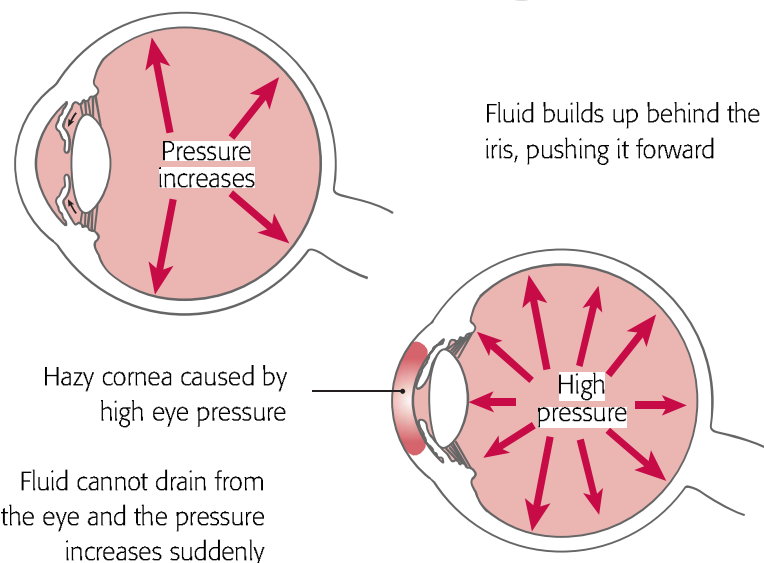
- Glaucoma is a condition in which the pressure in the eye becomes too high and can damage the nerve that transmits messages from the eye to the brain (optic nerve). In acute glaucoma, the pressure rises very quickly.
- Long-sighted elderly patients are most at risk of getting acute glaucoma. Pressure in the eye suddenly increases because fluid builds up behind the iris and pushes it forwards. This stops fluid draining out of the eye.
- Your eye will become red and very painful, and you may feel sick. In the early stages, you may see misty rainbow-coloured rings around lights, then your vision blurs because the high eye pressure makes the cornea hazy.
- You will need urgent hospital treatment to lower the pressure and make your eye more comfortable. After being given anaesthetic drops, a contact lens will be placed on your eye to focus a laser beam. The laser makes a small hole in the iris to improve flow of fluid around the eye.
- Laser treatment alone cures most patients with acute glaucoma. However, your optometrist should check your eye pressure every year as it can increase again.
- Occasionally eye pressure does not lower with laser treatment alone and long-term treatment with eye drops is needed. If this does not work, you may need an operation called a trabeculectomy. A small cut is made at the front of your eye under the upper eyelid to let the fluid in your eye escape and reduce eye pressure.

Healthy eye

Fluid flows through the pupil and drains out of the eye between the iris and cornea



Acute glaucoma



Treatment

