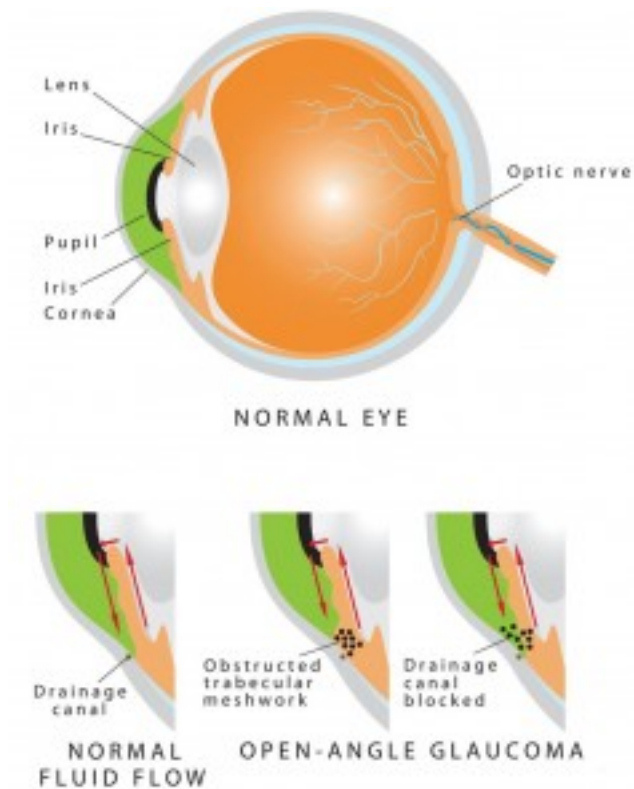


# Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma



Primary Open Angle Glaucoma (POAG), also known as chronic open angle glaucoma, is the most frequent type of human glaucoma. It is characterized by elevated intraocular pressure (IOP), cupping and atrophy of the optic nerve head, and typical visual field defects. By definition, in “primary” glaucomas there are no specific ocular abnormalities or systemic diseases causing the glaucoma. Furthermore, [gonioscopy](#) of eyes with POAG reveals a normal appearing anterior chamber angle without any obvious abnormalities.

Both eyes tend to be involved at the same time and to a similar degree. The prevalence of POAG in the United States is estimated to be between 1.5% – 2%, with most cases detected after age 40.

Although the cause of POAG is unknown, there are a number of known risk factors including: increased intraocular pressure, advanced age, racial background (African and Hispanic ancestry), decreased corneal thickness, and a positive family history. Evidence also suggests that diabetes and myopia (near sightedness) are also risk factors but to a lesser degree. There is no gender predilection for glaucoma.