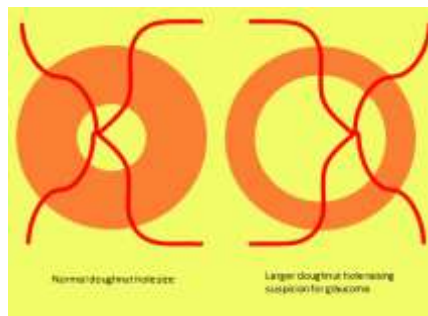


## The Quick Summary

You have nothing to worry about as long as you keep up with your eye doctor visits and instructions. You have some changes that look like glaucoma, but it is mild.

### Mild Glaucoma / Glaucoma Suspect

Dr. Shalwala is worried that you may develop frank glaucoma because of the appearance of your optic nerve in your eye. Glaucoma is a disease of the optic nerve, which carries information from the eye to the brain. Most patients don't notice any symptoms until the disease is very advanced. Once glaucoma is advanced, most of the vision in the eye is usually lost, and that loss can't be fixed. That's why we want to find glaucoma as early as possible.



The reason that we think you might be at risk for developing worsening glaucoma is the appearance of your optic nerve. Optic nerves look like doughnuts of nerve fibers with a central "doughnut hole" of supportive nerve material. In glaucoma, the nerve fibers are lost, so the doughnut hole gets bigger. However, some people are just born with big doughnut holes.

When we see a patient, we don't know why the doughnut hole is big--whether it is that they were born that way or that they are in the early stages of glaucoma. This is why we perform multiple tests including the visual field test. Visual field loss is how glaucoma can ultimately affect your eye. Glaucoma causes loss of side vision before loss of central vision.

Fortunately, many people who are glaucoma suspects or have early/mild glaucoma never progress to frank/advanced glaucoma, which is when we worry a lot about their eye pressures. Unfortunately, since there are no early symptoms, glaucoma can "sneak up" on you, which is why we need to keep watching and testing you.

***Visit the website below for more information or contact us today!***

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