



## TASMANIAN EYE CLINICS

EYE DOCTORS SPECIALISING AND CARING FOR YOUR EYES



# eye TALK

with Dr Gordon Wise

## Your questions answered on the topic of glaucoma.

**What is glaucoma?** A disease of the optic nerve that results in field loss. Field is the ability of the eye to see the periphery rather than what is directly in front of the eye.

**Is it common?** Approximately 2% of the population has glaucoma.

**Is it easy to diagnose?** Early diagnosis can be difficult but there are many new and very sophisticated techniques to make it easier. Late diagnosis is easy, but by that time treatment is more difficult.

**Does glaucoma run in families?** Yes, it does, and approximately 25% of people in a family will have glaucoma if one of their near relatives has it.

**I understood that glaucoma was about having a raised pressure in the eye.** No, glaucoma is not about an above-normal pressure in the eye. 75% of people with glaucoma will have a raised pressure, but 25% will not. So, glaucoma cannot be diagnosed by just measuring the pressure in the eye.

**Do people in the community who have glaucoma generally know they have it?** No, only about 50% of those with glaucoma have actually been diagnosed and know they have the disease.

For more information refer to our website **[www.taseye.com.au](http://www.taseye.com.au)**

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