

## WORDS TO KNOW:

**Glaucoma** - An eye disease caused by increased pressure within the eyeball (pronounced: glah-co-ma)

**Iris** - The coloured portion of the eye

**Iridotomy** - A procedure which creates a small hole in the iris (pronounced: iri-dot-o-mee)

**Drainage angle** - A small opening, near the front of the eye, where excess fluid drains from inside the eye

## 'OPEN-ANGLE' VS. 'CLOSED-ANGLE':

Open-angle glaucoma is the most common type of glaucoma. The drainage angle within the eye becomes partially blocked. This type of glaucoma does not cause pain, and does not cause vision issues in the early stages. The best way to prevent glaucoma is by going for regular eye exams.

Closed-angle glaucoma is a very serious condition, and needs to be treated as an emergency. This occurs when the drainage angle within the eye becomes completely blocked. If not treated as soon as possible, closed-angle glaucoma can lead to blindness.

## SYMPTOMS OF 'CLOSED-ANGLE' GLAUCOMA:

- headache
- nausea & vomiting
- rainbow coloured lights in your vision
- redness of the eye
- severe eye pain
- sudden blurred vision

## WHAT IS A LASER IRIDOTOMY?

A laser iridotomy is a procedure where the ophthalmologist (eye physician) makes a small hole in the iris with a laser. This allows the excess fluid to drain, relieving the eye pressure and controlling the glaucoma.

## HOW IS A LASER IRIDOTOMY PERFORMED?

The ophthalmologist will numb the eye using drops, and place a special contact lens over the eye. This contact lens guides the laser so that the small hole is made in the desired position. The procedure only takes a few minutes.

## EYE EMERGENCY?

Misericordia is open 24/7 for patients experiencing urgent eye issues: please present at Patient Registration through our 99 Cornish Avenue entrance.