

Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma (POAG - Chronic)

The most common form of glaucoma is chronic or primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG) and is characterized by a slow increase in intraocular pressure (IOP) without symptoms of pain or pressure.



PLAY PICMONIC

Mechanism

Flow of Aqueous Humor Slowed

[Water from Eye-fountain Slowed](#)

This reduced outflow or stoppage of aqueous humor by obstruction leads to a slow increase in IOP. Due to a decreased trabecular meshwork, drainage channels will clog, thus increasing intraocular pressure. Ultimately, there will be damage to the optic nerve and eventual blindness.

Signs and Symptoms

Slow Onset

[Snail On-switch](#)

POAG has a slow onset unlike its counterpart primary angle-closure glaucoma (PACG) which has a rapid onset. The patient may not notice the gradual visual field loss until peripheral vision has been largely compromised.

No Pain

[No Pain-sign](#)

The patient does not experience any pain in POAG.

Tunnel Vision

[Tunnel View](#)

Untreated glaucoma leads to tunnel vision, which is the loss of peripheral vision and only a small center visual area field can be seen.

IOP 22-32mm Hg

[Eye-squeezing \(2\)\(2\) Tutus to \(3\) Tree \(2\) Tutu](#)

The normal range for IOP is between 10 to 21 mm Hg, but those with open-angle glaucoma typically have an elevated IOP reading between 22 to 32 mm Hg.

Considerations

Drug Therapy

Med-bottle

While drugs do not cure glaucoma, they can help control symptoms. Several options exist including miotics, beta adrenergic blockers, alpha adrenergic agonists, and systemic carbonic anhydrase inhibitors.