

Welcome letter and what to expect from your glaucoma evaluation.

The Glaucoma division of Eye Associates of Wilmington, under the direction of Dr. Katherine Ochsner, provides the full spectrum of ophthalmic services needed to take care of all glaucoma-related problems. Our surgeons are board-certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology. Dr. Ochsner is fellowship trained and has extensive sub-specialty training and experience in the management of the most difficult glaucoma cases. In specific situations, on-site consultation can be arranged with other eye care specialists.

We are here to serve you, the patient, and we want to help you understand what will take place during your glaucoma evaluation. Your first visit will last between 1-3 hours. A complete medical and family history must be taken during your initial exam. This includes questions about your general health, allergies, medications and past surgeries or diseases. **A medical questionnaire has been enclosed with this letter.** We recommend that you or a family member fill it out and bring it with you to your first visit. **Please bring all of your medications or a complete list of medications, including all eye drops.**

If old records are available, we would appreciate your bringing them with you or having the records faxed to us ahead of time. Our fax number is 910-763-4608.

Dr. Ochsner will thoroughly examine your eyes for any signs of glaucoma. The intraocular pressure will be measured. A special exam called *gonioscopy* which helps the doctor to decide what type of glaucoma is present will be performed. Your peripheral vision will be assessed using an automated *visual field* analyzer.

You should anticipate having the pupil of your eye dilated in order for Dr. Ochsner to exam the optic nerve and retina. This will result in blurred vision for 3-4 hours. **We ask that someone be present to drive you home safely.** Additional tests may be required to document the status of your eyes, such as photography of the optic nerve, measurement of the corneal thickness. We will not duplicate tests that are current and available from your referring eye doctor. **Refraction (checking glasses) is not part of your comprehensive glaucoma exam.** We recommend this be done by your referring ophthalmologist or optometrist.

The information obtained from the course of your examination will be used to formulate a treatment plan. If a medical or surgical problem is diagnosed, Dr. Ochsner may recommend prescription medication, further testing, laser treatment or an operative procedure. Every attempt will be made to educate you concerning your condition. The risks and benefits of the treatment plan will be reviewed with you, and a consultation letter will be sent to the referring doctor or doctor of your choice.

For your convenience, a map with directions on how to get to our office is enclosed. Eye Associates of Wilmington is open from 8:00a.m. - 4:30p.m. Monday - Friday and provides emergency coverage for our patients 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

We are participants with a majority of insurance plans. In many cases, we will file your claims with your insurance directly. If necessary, our knowledgeable staff can assist you with your reimbursement claims. Please be sure to bring your insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, and/or vision plan cards to your appointments so that we may best assist you in accurately filing your claims.

We ask that you arrive 10 minutes before your scheduled time to allow for check-in. New patient appointments are available on a limited basis; with this in mind, kindly notify us at least 24 hours prior to your scheduled time if you are unable to keep your appointment.

Dr. Ochsner and her staff are looking forward to meeting you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Glaucoma Service Eye Associates of Wilmington
910-763-3601 x212