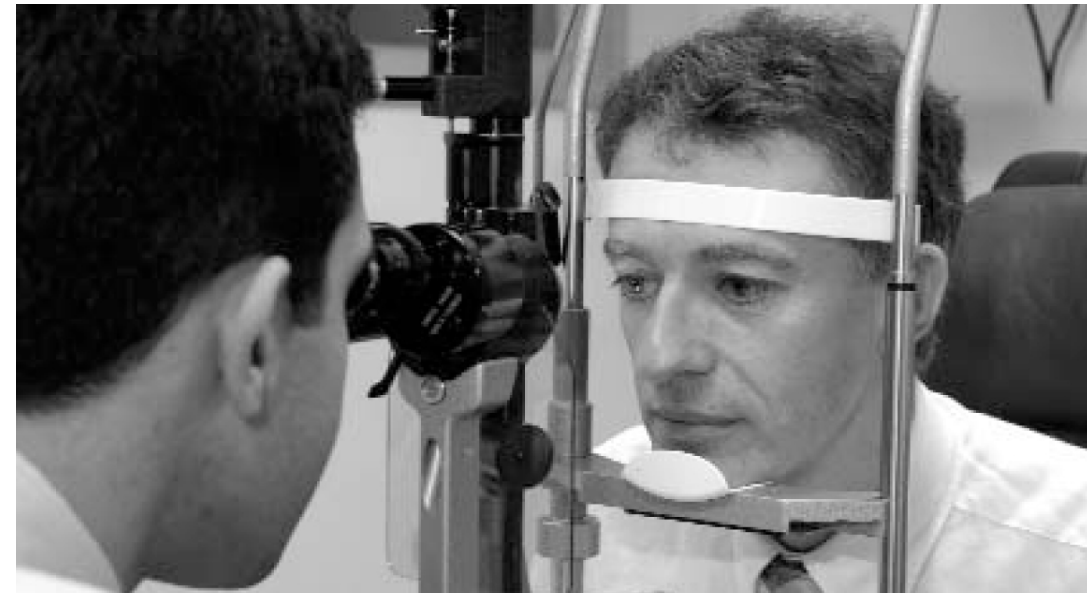


Additional Notes

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Acute Glaucoma (Angle Closure)



The Eye Unit

Information and advice for patients
about Acute Glaucoma (Angle Closure)

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Review date: **November 2023** Ref: **038/21**

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What is Acute Angle Closure Glaucoma (AACG)?

Angle Closure Glaucoma is caused by increased pressure in the front (anterior) chamber of the eye due to a blockage of the normal circulation of fluid within the eye. The 'angle' refers to the corner between the iris (the coloured part of the eye) and the cornea (the clear dome in front of the iris). This is where fluid drains from the eye but with this type of glaucoma the angle is closed preventing the fluid from draining normally.

This leads to a sudden increase of pressure inside the eye.

What are the symptoms?

- Severe pain
- Poor vision in the affected eye
- Nausea and vomiting
- Eye appears red and cloudy
- The pupil (black part of the eye) does not react to light
- The pupil appears oblong rather than round

The raised pressure can severely damage blood vessels and nerve cells within the eye leading to a permanent loss of vision. It is vital therefore that you get urgent treatment. Your other eye will also need treatment to prevent the same thing happening.

Treatment

The nurse will test your vision, examine both eyes and take eye pressure readings. After examining you again, the doctor will give you eye drops and a drug to lower the pressure in the affected eye. This drug is usually given straight into your vein so that it works very quickly.

You will have to wait in hospital until the pressure in your eye has come down to normal. This could take a few hours if the pressure doesn't reduce straight away. Your doctor may decide to admit you for an overnight stay in hospital.

When the treatment has reduced the pressure you will need laser treatment to both eyes to help the fluid drain out of the eyeball and stop any more attacks. This can be done as an outpatient and is normally very successful. However a small number of patients will require some further treatment. If this is the case your doctor will discuss this with you.

We advise seeing an optician for checkups every year after being discharged from the hospital.

For further information and advice please contact:

Emergency Helpline: 0300 019 4181

**Mon-Sat 8am-6pm, Sunday 8:30am-2pm
and bank holidays 8:30am-6pm**

Remember

- Always wash your hands before and after touching your eye/s.
- Always finish the course of treatment if you have been prescribed medication, even if your symptoms have improved.
- Always have regular eye checks with your Optometrist.
- Always protect your eyes with goggles or glasses when carrying out DIY or using any power equipment.
- If you splash anything into your eye always rinse with plenty of tap water and seek medical advice.
- Never use anyone else's medication (this includes eye-drops).