

Glaucoma

Introduction:

Glaucoma is an irreversible eye disease that is the result of fluid pressure within the eye. For adequate function and structure, fluid movement in and out of the eye must be consistent and balanced. Blood flows into the eye carrying nutritional components that help maintain its round shape and functioning which process light and the images through the optic nerve. In glaucoma, incoming blood flow exceeds the outgoing aqueous fluid, which moves through an intricate trabecular meshwork. When this occurs, pressure relieving treatments must begin or irreversible damage will progress and can lead to complete vision loss. Eye drops, laser surgery, implants are all treatment options that are available and used depending upon the degree of severity.

Glaucoma is a disease that sparked my interest for a number of reasons. Initially, I anticipated finding a link between the very similar symptoms my older sister has experienced to the ones from glaucoma. As I researched this condition, I realized that this condition was not the same as my sisters. Glaucoma is a chronic illness that silently causes damage to one's visual health.

Section 1: Background and Problem Statement

Healthy Vision 2010: Glaucoma

http://www.healthyvision2010.nei.nih.gov/eye_diseases/

For the *Healthy Vision 2010*; I found it to be confusing and misleading. First, the article briefly discussed a problem, and then it stated statistics that followed with different organizational resources. There were several different organizational resource websites

that related to eye diseases and led me into many more general health problems in which, several sites bombarded visitors with advertisements eager to sell products.

Glaucoma Australia Inc.

<http://www.glaucoma.org.au/>

Although, this article was not created for people living in the United States, I enjoyed reading it because it was easy and friendly to navigate. This websites discussed the history of glaucoma to the present, also easy and accurate information on everything about glaucoma.

Glaucoma: Health Illustrated Encyclopedia

http://assets.aarp.org/external_sites/adam/html/1/001620.html

I was astonished with the comprehensive coverage of the disease and how accurate and friendly this site was with information. The topics were clear and broken down into subdivisions; in fact there were illustrated images for better understanding of the eye and what glaucoma does to deteriorate vision.

National Eye Institute

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/nehep/programs/glaucoma/index.asp>

The *National Eye Institute* was very informative. The content was accurate, current and reliable. The website talked about the causes of glaucoma and, who can get glaucoma. In addition, the website had an audio icon to hear the script and visual pictures to distinguish the difference in vision by someone who has glaucoma and a person that has normal eyesight.

Section 2: Research

Human Molecular Genetics

<http://hmg.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/>

This website was geared more toward a specialized medical audience and not informative nor reader friendly for a basic information. Genetics, mutations, and myocyte data is discussed in elaborate language that is not appealing to the general public. Finding useful data on this webpage only led me to become more confused.

Glaucoma Research Foundation

http://www.glaucoma.org/learn/glaucoma_facts.php

The Glaucoma Research Foundation offers website users information about the ongoing research and research milestones. It allows sufferers to become involved and hopeful about progressive curative measures.

Racial Variations in the Prevalence of Primary Open-Angle Glaucoma

<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/266/3/69>

This webpage had a substantial amount of information that is very detailed. It provides numerous articles of interest concerning glaucoma, however, after the first 3 abstracts; you are expected to pay in order to receive further information. It is a credible and accurate website; unfortunately, the information is not readily available.

Pub Med

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/1454314>

This webpage had a substantial amount of information that was in depth. It provided several links to other articles of interest concerning glaucoma, however, the website is a good source for someone doing specific search on one group of people. It is a credible and accurate website; unfortunately, the information is not complete unless one can interpret the technical coding.

Section 3: Statistics

Sightsavers International

<http://www.sightsavers.org/What%20We%20Do/Causes%20of%20Blindness/Glaucoma/Treatments%20for%20Glaucoma/World1602.html#>

This website is great for viewers who have little or no knowledge about glaucoma. All of the information is on one page. It goes into detail about who gets the illness; the different illness stages can be treated depending on the severity.

The Lighthouse International

<http://www.lighthouse.org/>

The Lighthouse International webpage was customized for the visually impaired. It provides an icon where users can enlarge or minimize the font size. For non-afflicted users to identify with the intensity of how disease progressive sabotages peripheral vision, the site provides skewed images.

Center for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5345a3.htm>

This site I found interesting mainly due to the fact that it showed evidenced based data of the higher prevalence of visual impairment and eye disease among persons afflicted with diabetes to those non-afflicted. The study included both males and females of various age groups.

Glaucoma Service at the University of Washington

<http://depts.washington.edu/opthweb/iop.html>

The University of Washington's Glaucoma Service, is artistically appealing. It provided comparative information about the different kinds of glaucoma. In detail, it explained open-ended glaucoma and how it differs from closed ended glaucoma. It provides colorful anatomical eye diagrams which made it easier to compare visually the unaffected eye to the glaucoma-affected eye.

Section 4: Consumer Information

The Glaucoma Foundation

<http://www.glaucomafoundation.org/>

At the Glaucoma Foundation website it had everything for a person looking for information and education. The best part about this website is that some of research associated with glaucoma such curative treatments and studies are conducted right here in New Haven at Yale University.

Family Doctor

<http://familydoctor.org/online/famdocen/home.html>

The familydoctor.org site is very easy to navigate and educational. It provides a visual chart as a tool to identify different types of eyes problems and explains various the procedures and treatment options. Since diabetes and glaucoma are commonly conjoined, this site is addresses the issues that consider the management of the two illnesses.

Glaucoma Research Foundation

<http://www.glaucoma.org/>

Glaucoma Research Foundation is another informational website which has a wealth of knowledge about glaucoma. This site gives a general idea of what to expect with glaucoma, what comes with the illness, and many more useful topics.

The University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center

<http://www.kellogg.umich.edu/patientcare/conditions/glaucoma.html>

This was the last website I did on consumer information and I was surprised how easy it was to navigate through a medical school site. This site is setup in chronological order, beginning from defining what glaucoma is and ending with an in depth discussion about all sorts of treatments. It has also won awards of recognition.

Conclusions:

Section 1: Background and Statement

Best Web site:

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/nehep/programs/glaucoma/index.asp>

I thought this Web site was the best because I like how it breaks down the topic of glaucoma, in addition, has an audio icon and a visual pictures. It gives good background information on the topic.

Worst Web site:

http://www.healthyvision2010.nei.nih.gov/eye_diseases/

I found this website to be confusing and misleading. This websites led me into to other sites with different health problems in which, several sites bombarded visitors with advertisements eager to sell products.

Section 2: Research

There is a great deal of effort being made to continue doing research on glaucoma. I learned that anyone could get glaucoma; therefore, it is important to have an eye exam once a year. In fact, glaucoma is a leading cause of blindness in the United States; moreover, the number of people with glaucoma will rise as the number of elderly Americans increases.

Section 3: Statistics

After reviewing the Web sites, I found some remarkable information that although anybody is vulnerable African American people are the largest percent to get the

reversible illness of glaucoma. Even more, people with diabetes have a 50 percent of getting glaucoma.

Section 4: Consumer Information

For consumer information it was difficult to critique the best or worst sites because I found that most of the sites had accurate information. Most of the websites were similar, but at the same time each had a unique way of presenting the information.

Back to Betty C. Jung's Web site	<u>http://www.bettyjung.net/</u>
Back to Web site Critique Reports Directory	<u>http://www.bettyjung.net/Pch201wsreports.htm</u>