

## **Baltimore Washington Eye Center Notes Reduced Glaucoma Blindness Risk**

*Baltimore Washington Eye Center notes that according to results of a Mayo Clinic study there is good news for those with glaucoma or even those with significant glaucoma risk factors.*

January 8, 2015 (FPRC) -- The ongoing efforts by patients and eye doctors to raise glaucoma awareness and the need for routine eye exams and testing along with advances in diagnosis and treatment have lowered the risk of blindness from glaucoma by nearly half. "The study, published in *Ophthalmology*, is significant in that the likelihood of losing sight in one eye was 28 percent for patients diagnosed with glaucoma between 1965 and 1980 and that number fell to 13.5 percent for patients diagnosed between 1981 and 2000," commented Arturo Betancourt, M.D., Medical Director of Baltimore Washington Eye Center.

"For our greater Baltimore population we are particularly sensitive to the breadth of glaucoma risk factors our patients seem to demonstrate. For example the risk of developing glaucoma increases for those over the age of 40 and is 6 times greater once you are over 60 years of age. If any family member-especially a sibling-has glaucoma your risk increases 4-9 fold-and this is even greater if you have other systemic or eye diseases that compromise circulation such as diabetes. Race and ethnicity also affects glaucoma risk in that African-Americans have a genetic predisposition that exposes them to a 6-8 fold increased risk and patients of Hispanic descent over the age of 60 seem to be at increased risk," explained Brad Spagnolo, M.D.

"We are really encouraged by these results. They confirm that the ongoing building of patient awareness and education about the need for routine eye exams and glaucoma testing such as diagnostic imaging with optical coherence tomography (OCT) and high resolution digital photography coupled with laser treatments and implantable stents and devices to improve fluid drainage has contributed to our ability to prevent vision loss and blindness from glaucoma," explained Andrew Hammer, M.D.

### About Glaucoma

Glaucoma is an eye condition where fluid does not drain properly from the inside of the eye resulting in high pressure inside the eye that can damage the optic nerve. In the United States, 2.7 million people age 40 and older have the condition. If left untreated, glaucoma slowly and progressively reduces peripheral vision and eventually may cause blindness.

Baltimore Washington Eye Center is a leading eye care practice and surgery center serving the greater Baltimore and Washington, D.C. area that staffed by a team of Ophthalmologists, Optometrists, Opticians, technical and administrative staff who provide eye examinations for adults and children, laser cataract surgery and lens implants (IOL), laser vision correction such as LASIK, diagnosis and treatment of cornea disease, care for diseases of the retina including diabetes and age related macular degeneration (AMD) and diagnosis and treatment of glaucoma as well as contact lenses, eyeglasses, eyewear and optical services.

To learn more about Baltimore Washington Eye Center or glaucoma you may visit <http://www.bweyecenter.com> or <http://facebook.com/baltimorewashingtoneyecenter> or follow our eye

care blog.

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<http://www.aboutcataractsurgery.com>

<http://www.seewithlasik.com>

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