

NARROW ANGLES

Have you been recently told your eyes have narrow angles? This handout is an explanation of what narrow angles are and what it means for you.

The “angle” refers to the openness or narrowness of how the tissues inside the eye are put together. Most people have wide-open angles, while other people, such as you, have more narrow angles. This angle area is where the fluid inside the eye drains out. Fluid inside the eye is constantly being produced and constantly being drained off. As long as the angle is even slightly open, the fluid will drain out fine and there is no problem.

However, if angle ever closes, the fluid cannot drain out and begins to build up inside the eye. As this fluid continues to build up, the pressure inside the eye becomes excessively high resulting in a painful, red eye with blurry vision. This typically occurs in only one eye, and happens fairly quickly over a period of a few hours.

This event is called Acute Angle Closure Glaucoma and is a very rare occurrence. However, what is important is that you have

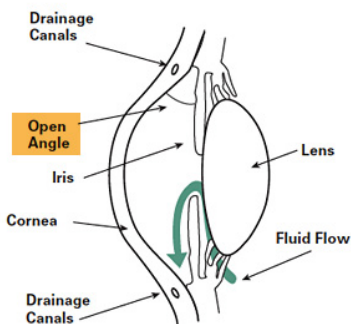
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a general understanding of the symptoms that occur when the angle closes off so that you can seek eye care quickly – should this ever occur.

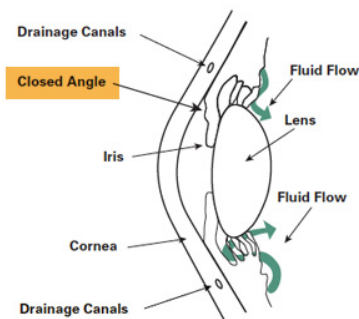
Symptoms of Acute Angle Closure Glaucoma:

- One eye becomes red
- Vision becomes blurry over a few hours
- Eye sometimes aches or hurts so badly that you become nauseated

It's important to remember that these are rare events, but if you were ever to experience such symptoms please see an eye doctor right away.



Doctors at The Eye Center can be reached Monday through Friday between 8:00am and 5:00pm.



If you are experiencing a medical emergency outside of regular office hours please report directly to the Emergency Department at Southwest Health.

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