

WORLD GLAUCOMA WEEK 2023

12th to 18th MARCH, 2023

World Glaucoma week is a global initiative of world glaucoma association and world glaucoma patient association during which awareness on glaucoma is raised.

Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable **IRREVERSIBLE** blindness in the world. The figures are staggering! One in 200 people aged 40, has glaucoma and the number rises to one in 8 at age 80. As the world population increases, glaucoma is becoming more common. Currently it is estimated that 78 million people are diagnosed with glaucoma on a global level. This number is forecast to skyrocket to 111 million by the year 2040. Ghana is among the world glaucoma patient league leaders with estimated 700,000 glaucoma patients living with glaucoma and over 60,000 already blind from the condition.

The global theme for the celebration is, “the world is bright, save your sight” and the local theme is ,”do you know your eye pressure, get a checkup today!”

To eliminate glaucoma blindness, there are several issues that need to be addressed. Glaucoma usually gives no warning until it is advanced. but the damage it causes to vision is ongoing, with increasing intra ocular pressure (IOP) and could become irreversible. Fortunately for many patients, early detection, control and, can halt damage. That means the earlier the diagnosis, the more vision there is to save and less likely the person is to become blind.

Therefore , the world glaucoma week aims at alerting the public the need for regular simple eye checks which allow earlier detection and , hence, saved sight. If detected early, availability of less expensive medication as well as surgery, which is also safe for more complicated conditions are available to various category of patients.

The programme lined up for Ghana this year is free eye screening in hospitals and clinics, TV and Radio talk shows and official press launch by the Minister of Health on Wednesday 15th March 2023 from 10am to 11am. Local eye care product manufacturers will showcase their products. Invited guests, and press corps should be seated by 9.30 am.

All must avail themselves to this year’s world glaucoma week and check your eyes also for other eye diseases. Government will ensure that affordable eye medicines will be made available to control the condition which is discovered only through screening. Everybody can get glaucoma and uncontrolled glaucoma will lead to permanent blindness. Get a checkup today!