

## PRESS CLIPPING SHEET

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### **Novartis survey on glaucoma shows 85 percent scared of eyesight loss, but only 33 percent undergo regular eye testing**

For World Glaucoma Week, from 12 to 18 March, Novartis highlighted results of an international survey showing that the majority of those surveyed (54% of respondents) are unfamiliar with glaucoma. Glaucoma, a leading cause of blindness, affects approximately 60 million people around the world. Glaucoma is often undetected because it is an almost symptomless eye disease that worsens over time and may lead to blindness.

The survey showed that 87 percent of respondents believe regular eye exams are important but only 33 percent reported having one annually.

“As a global leader in the field of eye health, Novartis wants to raise awareness of the importance of regular eye

exams from an eye care professional. Early diagnosis and treatment is essential, but many people are not aware that they may face the risk of glaucoma and potential blindness,” said Basyouni Abouseif, country president of Novartis – Egypt. “The results of our survey support recommendations from scientific experts and patient organisations showing there is a significant gap between awareness of the disease, its potential impact, and the relatively low individual acceptance of the regular screening.”

The global burden of glaucoma is predicted to increase further, with the number of people living with the disease worldwide rising to an estimated 76 million by 2020.