

GLAUCOMA AWARENESS

Known as the *sneak thief of sight*, glaucoma is a disease characterized by gradual loss of vision resulting from death of the cells in the eye which transmits visual images through the optic nerve to the brain. As the optic nerve becomes increasingly damaged, permanent vision loss and blindness can occur. Early detection is the key to treating and halting the effects of glaucoma.

Glaucoma is a devastating disease of the eye, which leads to irreversible blindness if its not detected and treated early. That's why it's very important to sensitize the population in general to the scourge of glaucoma and to educate them on recognizing the disease and prevent blindness. The ophthalmologist in Cap-Haitien: Dr Guerline Roney, Dr Dupuy Pierre, Dr Carmelle Lucien and Dr Reynold Monsanto from Jacmenl organized the following activities on September 22 and 23 2011:

Activities

- Print advertisements, brochures, banners and posters
- Screening tests
- Seminars for Hospital Justinien personel.
- Educate glaucoma patients and their family members about the disease.
- Radio and TV ads

All outpatients coming to Justinien and Convention Baptiste were offered free tonometry. 659 patients took advantage of facility. Two technicians manned the Tonopens and measured intra-ocular pressures from 7 AM to 5 PM. Amongst the 445 patients screened at Justinien, we found a total of 192 patients with glaucoma: 132 patients were already on anti-glaucoma medication and 60 new patients were diagnosed with glaucoma.

We would like to put on record the proactive role of:

- Disprophar in promoting our Glaucoma days in Cap-Haitien. They provided the posters, other educational materials and glaucoma drops at low cost.
- CBM who has been actively working towards improving the quality of eye care services in our Country for more than 30 years.

Justinien



445 patients screened at Justinien



213 patients screened at the Convention Baptiste



Glaucoma screening was held in both clinics by Dr Pierre Dupuy, chief of the Ophthalmology Department at Convention Baptiste and Dr Carmelle Lucien, private ophthalmologist



Dr Reynold Monsanto, chief of the Ophthalmology Department in Jacmel



This activity had a great impact on the staff, in both clinics, who perceived the activity as doing something positive for the people's health



Banners and Posters describing 'the Glaucoma Day and Glaucoma' were distributed to different public places.



Glaucoma brochures and awareness posters were displayed in the clinics to educate patients and their attendants about Glaucoma

Thanks to our sponsors: CBM and Disprophar:

