

CHRONIC DISEASE DETECTION: The role of the optometrist

CHRONIC DISEASE in Canada

The rate of chronic disease is increasing across the country with **three out of five Canadians older than 20 having a chronic condition, and four out of five at risk of developing one.**¹ Optometrists are well-positioned to support patient engagement in the management of their overall health, including chronic disease.



EARLY DETECTION of chronic disease by optometrists

- As the front line of eye health and vision care, optometrists perform comprehensive eye examinations that provide a unique opportunity to monitor overall health and detect and monitor the impact and progression of chronic disease.²
- Comprehensive eye examinations can facilitate the identification of chronic conditions such as diabetes, high cholesterol, vascular disease and hypertension.^{3, 4, 5}
- A significant correlation exists between having an eye examination and the early detection and subsequent intervention for certain systemic diseases.⁶
- Early intervention for high cost chronic diseases can reduce health care costs and improve health outcomes, and even save lives.⁷



SWIFT ACTION REQUIRED to involve optometrists in detecting chronic conditions

- Promote the role of optometry in supporting a sustainable, patient-centered health care system through early detection of chronic disease.
 - Educate the public by promoting the value of comprehensive eye exams to maintain eye health, and to detect and monitor chronic disease through a public awareness campaign.

REFERENCES >

