Glaucoma has long been recognized as a leading cause of eye diseases, conditions, and blindness. The term ‘glaucoma’ is now defined as a group of eye conditions characterized by damage to the optic nerve and loss of vision due to chronic high intraocular pressure. Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of vision loss worldwide, affecting millions of people, and it is responsible for irreversible loss of vision in approximately 10% of affected individuals.

Glaucoma was first mentioned in ancient Greek works of Homer, where the term ‘glaukos’ is used to describe a dimming of vision. The term was later adopted in the medical context, with the first known use of the term ‘glaucoma’ being reported by the Greek physician and Father of Medicine, Hippocrates, in the 5th century BC.

In 350 BC, Euclid of Alexandria is credited with being the first to define glaucoma as a disease characterized by the dimming of vision. This marked the beginning of a systematic approach to the study of glaucoma.

The disease gained further attention in the 3rd century BC, with Galen, a prominent physician and scientist, publishing works on glaucoma, including a treatise titled ‘De Glaucoma.’

In the 11th century, Alhazen, a Persian polymath, provided a detailed description of the disease, including the concept of aqueous humor and its role in the pathogenesis of glaucoma.

The discovery, diagnosis, and treatment of glaucoma have evolved significantly over the centuries, with notable advancements over the past 50 years.

In 1982, Latanoprost became the first prostaglandin analog approved for treating glaucoma, marking a significant advance in the management of the disease.

In 1998, Brimonidine, a topical adrenergic agonist, was introduced to lower intraocular pressure, offering a new class of medications.

In 2004, the Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) was developed, providing a novel, minimally invasive treatment option.

In 2010, Alcon introduced the first fixed-dose combination of timolol and pilocarpine, TRAVATAN Z®, which has become a popular choice in glaucoma therapy.

In 2013, LPIE entered into the glaucoma market through Alcon, with the introduction of their surgical glaucoma implants.

In 2016, Dr. Robert Elliot introduced the first Corneal Impression Tonometry (CIT), providing a more precise measurement of intraocular pressure.

In 2019, the Trabectome surgical device was developed, offering a more precise and effective treatment for glaucoma.

Today, glaucoma remains a significant global health issue, with advancements in both diagnosis and treatment continuing to improve outcomes for patients.