

KUALA LUMPUR: About 100 people turned up for an eye screening assessment organised by the Malaysian Glaucoma Society in conjunction with World Sight Day recently.

It was carried out in partnership with the Singapore Eye Research Institute (Seri).

The readings will be assessed by trained readers at the Singapore Advanced Imaging Laboratory for Ocular Research (Sailor) in two weeks time.

The event also aimed to help raise funds for needy glaucoma patients.

The ophthalmic fundus camera which is used to capture retinal images can also detect diseases such as diabetic retinopathy and systemic diseases like hypertension.

Save Ones Sight Missions Bhd and Malaysia Glaucoma Society founder Stevens Chan said glaucoma, a disease of the optic nerve, was the second leading cause of blindness worldwide and could hit everyone.

"Glaucoma has to do with the pressure inside the eye. It happens when the clear liquid which normally flows in and out of the eye cannot drain properly. The optic nerve is damaged as a result.

"Those aged 50 and above with a family history of glaucoma and medical problems are at greater risk of developing the condition."

He said regular check-ups were essential as they could lead to early detection and save one's eyesight.

"Malaysia was rated among the lowest in terms of glaucoma awareness among countries in Southeast Asia. This should be changed," he said.

Chan, who lost his sight because of glaucoma, said the symptoms were almost undetectable, especially in the early stages.

"By the time you find out you have glaucoma, it is too late and there is nothing you can do but undergo life-long treatment," he said.

Read more: [Glaucoma awareness in Malaysia among lowest in Southeast Asia](http://www.nst.com.my/nst/articles/05naee/Article/#ixzz1bxEqC5uh)
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