

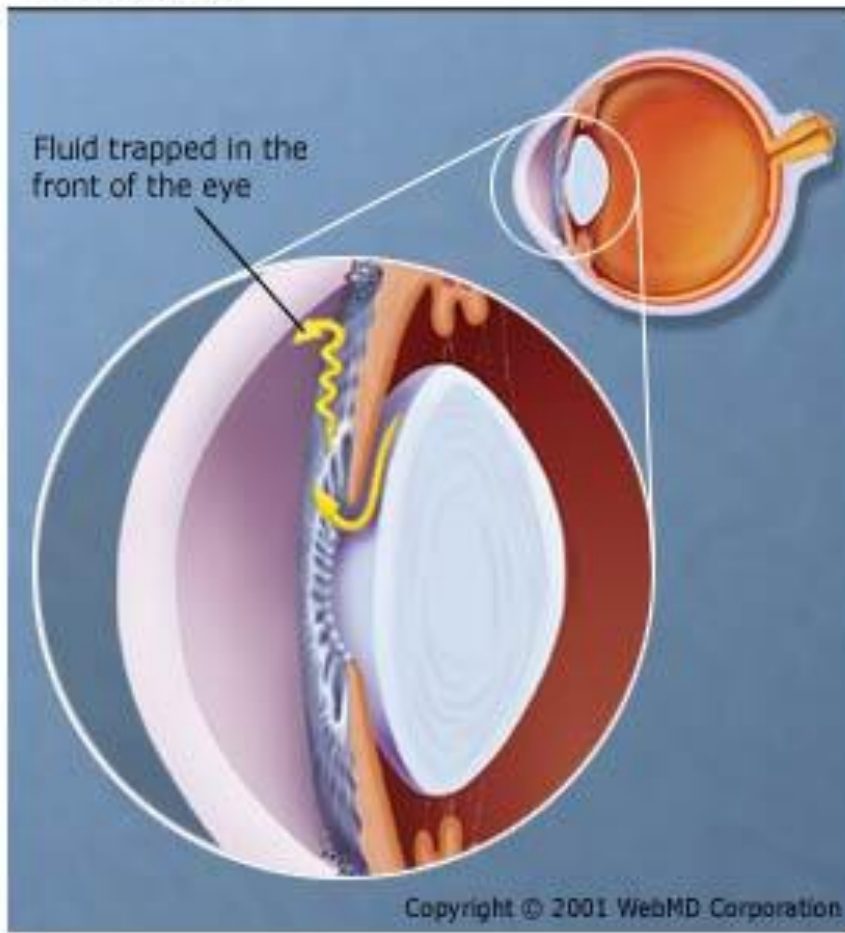
# Examining Barriers To Glaucoma Vision Care in Accra, Ghana

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# Glaucoma

Glaucoma



Glaucoma has been termed the 'Thief of Sight.' It is a disease generally characterized by increased ocular pressure that damages the optic nerve.

# **Glaucoma in Ghana**

Over the age of 40, glaucoma prevalence in:

**Ghana ~ 8 %**

**United States ~ 2 %**

Glaucoma prevalence is high in Ghana, even compared to other African countries.

# Glaucoma Patients

A small study conducted by Dr. Michel Gyasi, a glaucoma ophthalmologist at Emmanuel Eye Centre in Accra, Ghana, showed after surveying for glaucoma that:

- 96%** of rural area patients had a moderate to advanced case of glaucoma, and

- 71%** of urban area patients had a moderate to advanced case of glaucoma.

**Why are glaucoma patients  
with available vision care  
seeking treatment late?**

# Glaucoma Barriers Study

Conducted through semi-structured personal interviews at Emmanuel Eye Centre with 49 glaucoma patients.

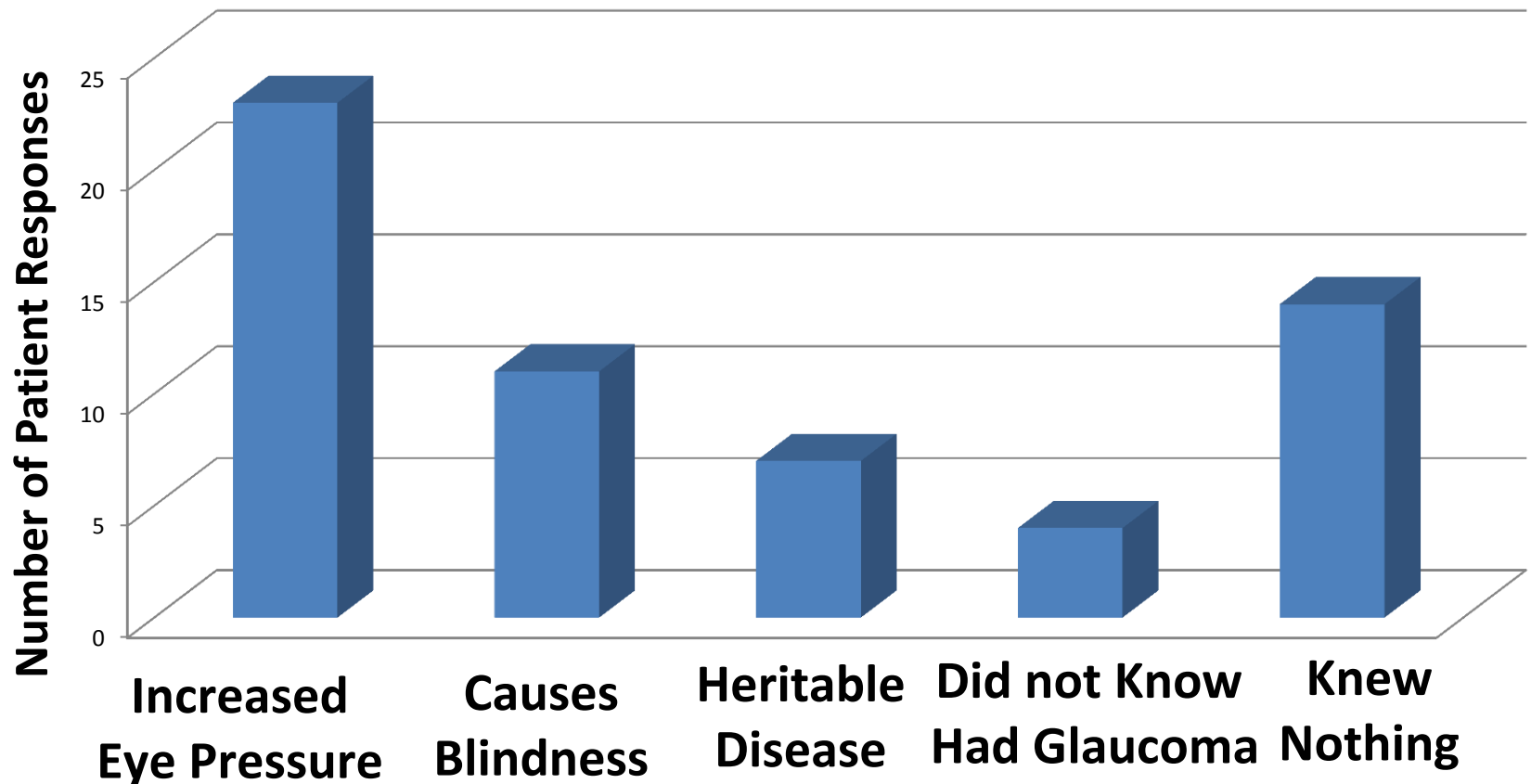


## Three Categories

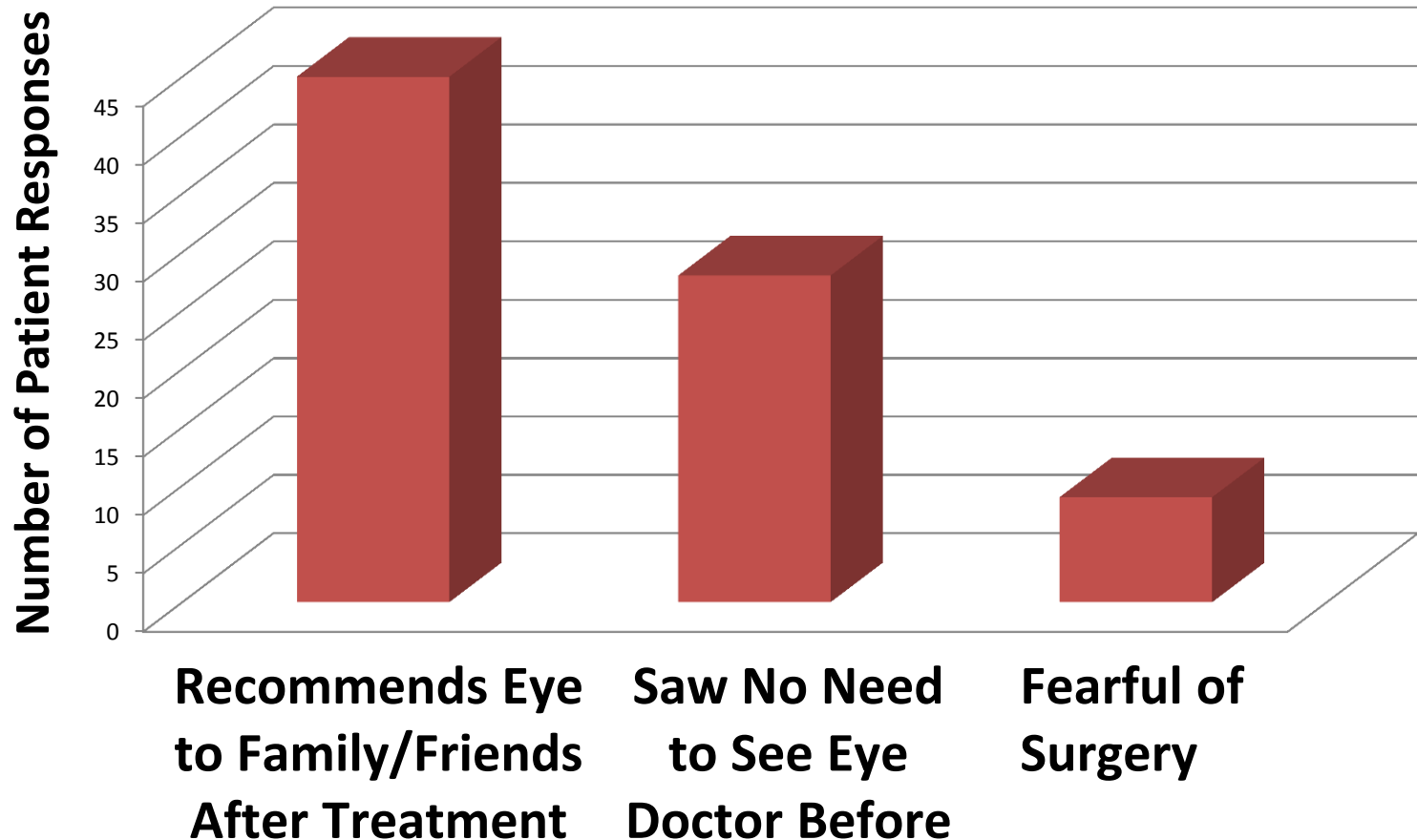
1. Patient Knowledge of Glaucoma
2. Feelings Toward Treatment
3. Barriers to Glaucoma Vision Care



**Patients understood the increased pressure,  
but about a quarter of the patients knew  
nothing about glaucoma.**

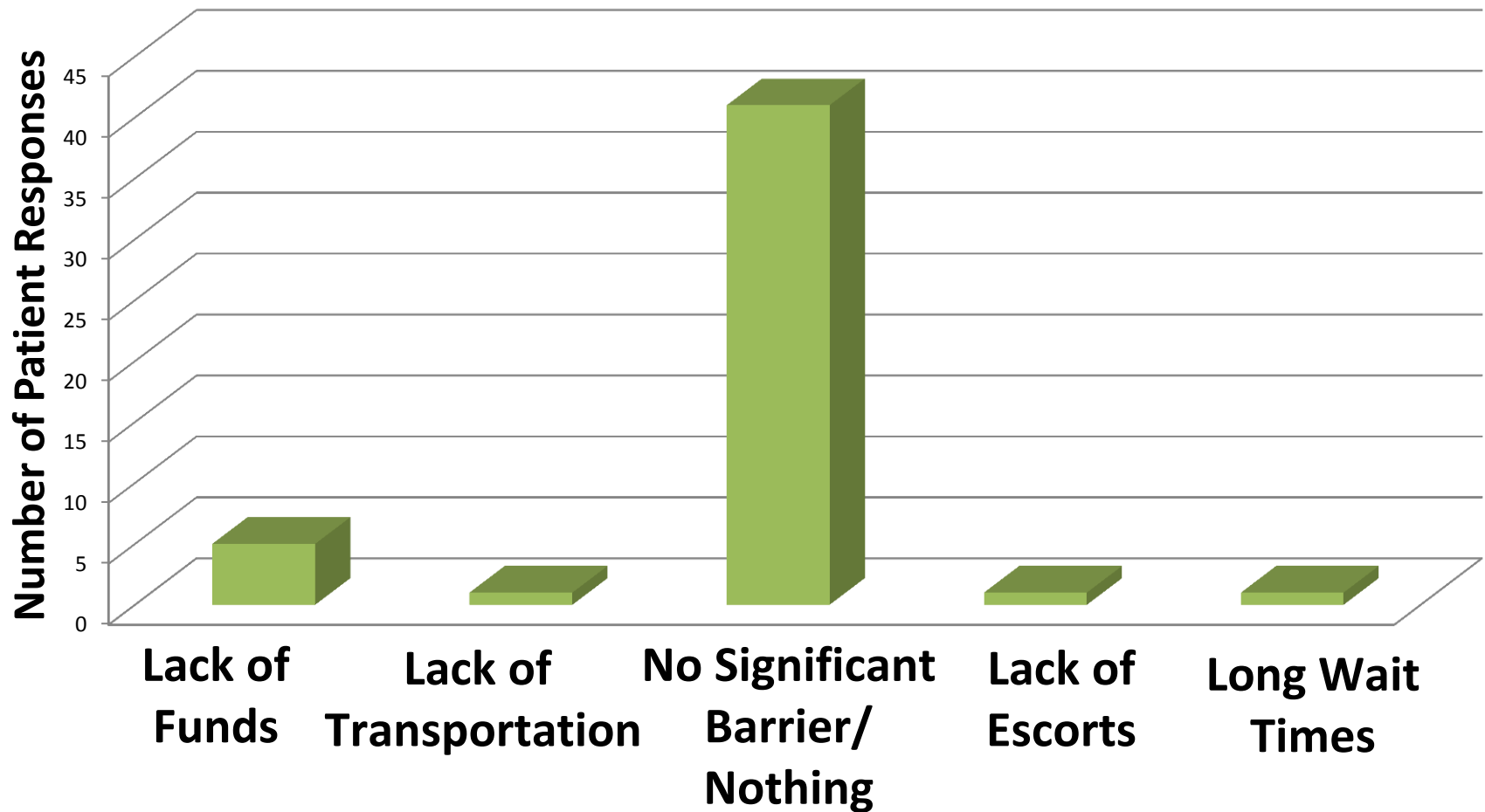


**After vision care treatment was received, patients realized the value of preventive vision care.**





# Patients had a difficult time noting specific barriers to vision care.



**Success of preventive medicine hinges on the value perceived by the patient and population.**

Preventive medicine faces structural constraints, yet requires individual responsibility.

# What can be done?

## **Patient Case Story**

A pastor told me about how he invites health professionals to speak to his congregation.

## **Outreach Story**

An outreach at a church in Accra was focused on demonstrating the value of vision care through screening and education.



# HUGE THANKS



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