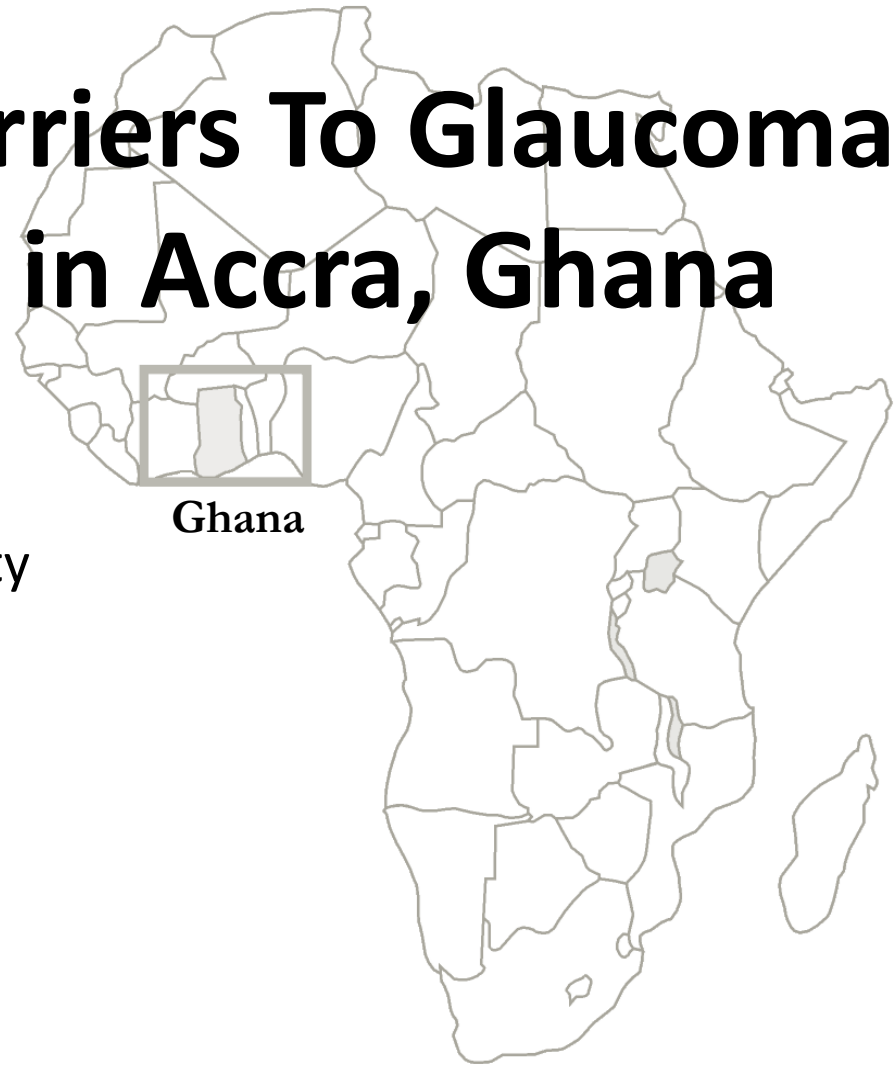


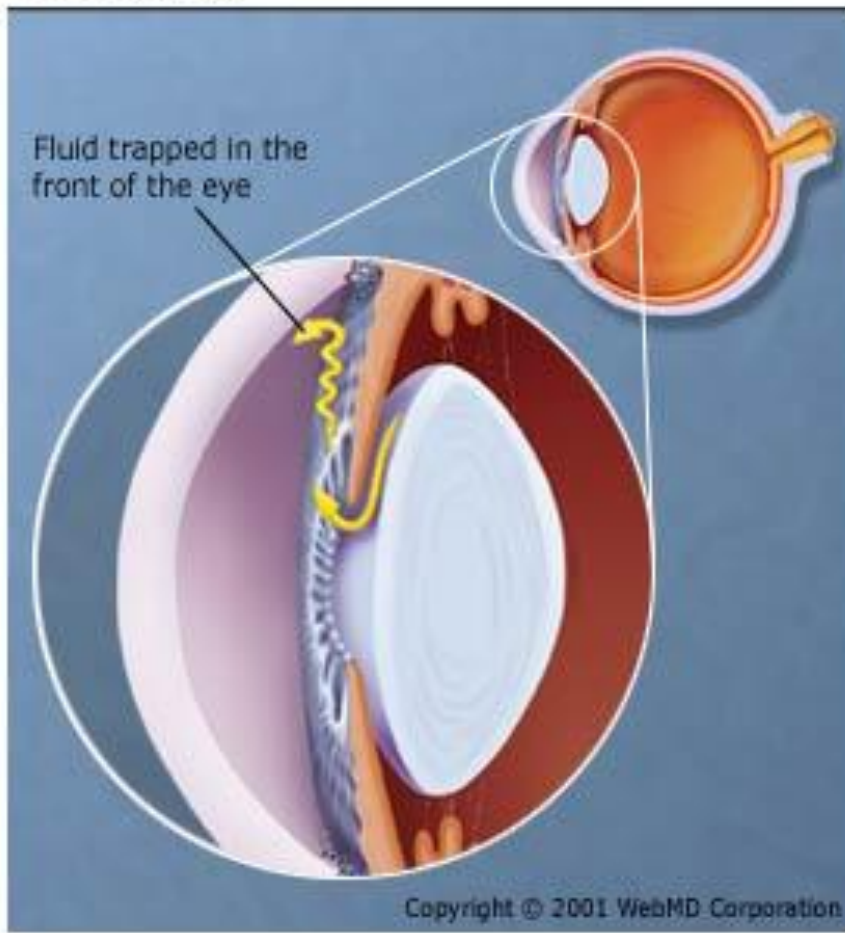
Examining Barriers To Glaucoma Vision Care in Accra, Ghana

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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.

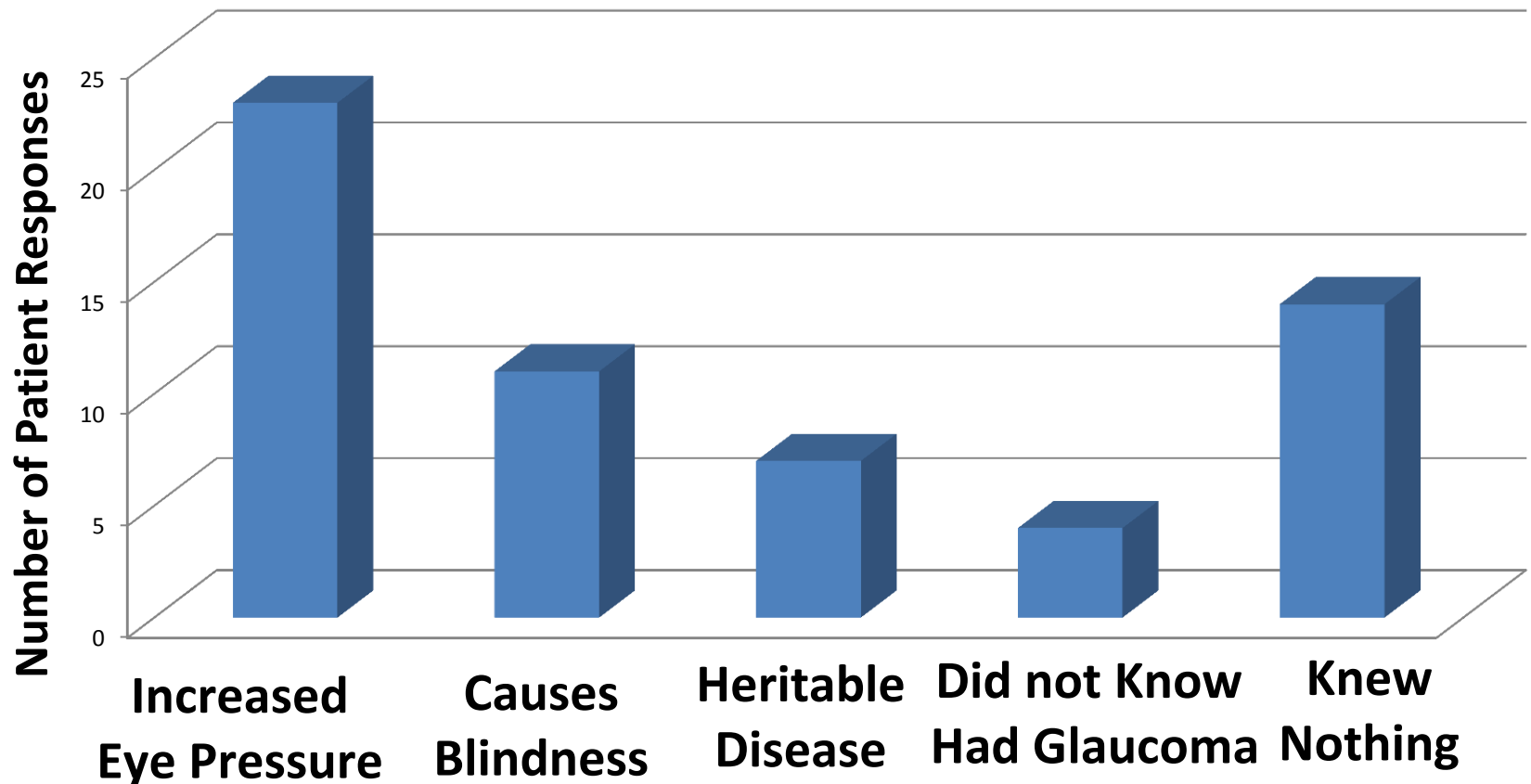


Three Categories

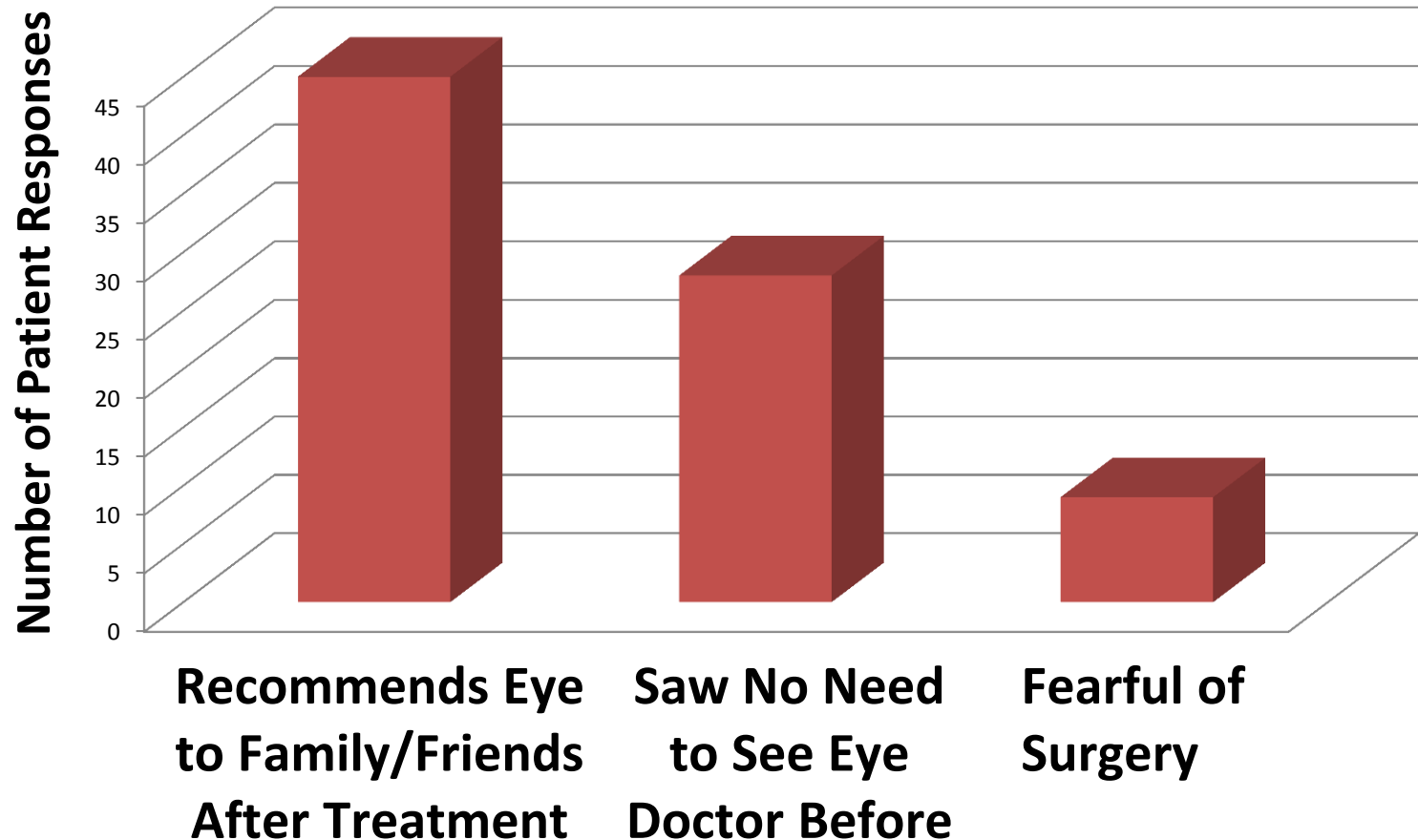
1. Patient Knowledge of Glaucoma
2. Feelings Toward Treatment
3. Barriers to Glaucoma Vision Care



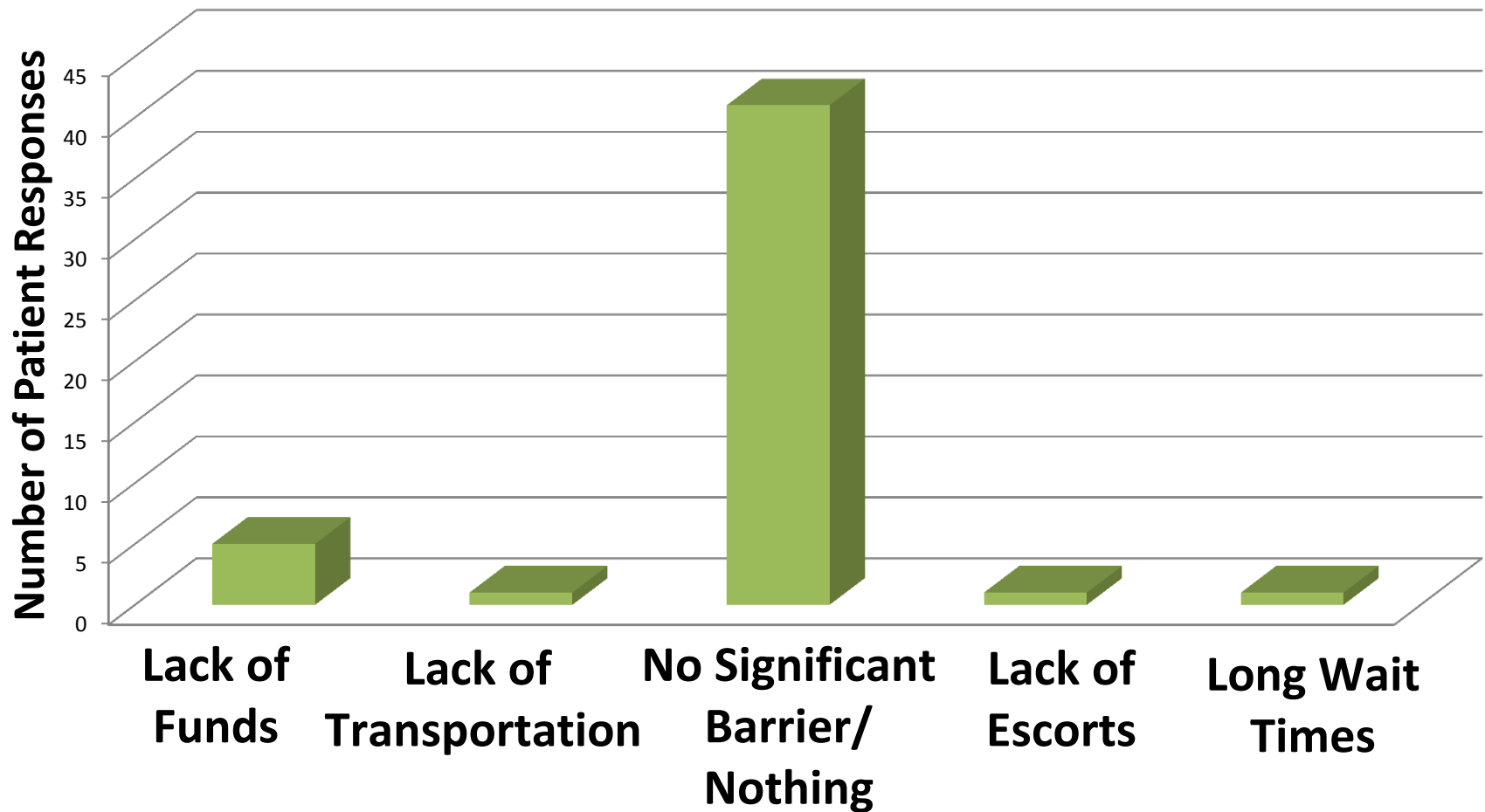
**Patients understood the increased pressure,
but about a quarter of the patients knew
nothing about glaucoma.**



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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