



# Selective laser trabeculoplasty

## What is selective laser trabeculoplasty?

Selective laser trabeculoplasty (SLT) is an effective and repeatable treatment to reduce eye pressure for patients with glaucoma.

Glaucoma is a condition in which damage occurs to the optic nerve potentially leading to permanent loss of vision. Excessive eye pressure is the major risk factor for glaucoma.

SLT can be used as a first-line treatment to lower eye pressure, as an alternative to glaucoma drops or as an additional treatment alongside drops.

Laser energy is applied to the drainage tissue of the eye, causing a chemical and biological change which results in better drainage of fluid out of the eye into the bloodstream and hence reduced pressure in the eye. It may take 1-3 months for the full effect to become apparent.

## What is the success rate?

SLT is effective in 90% of cases when reviewed one year after treatment.

Usually it lowers the pressure inside the eye by about 30%, though the effect may be reduced if the patient is already taking glaucoma drops.

It may take 1-3 months for the full effect to occur.

The effect does wear off in some patients and the success rate 5 years later is approximately 50%.

However, an advantage of SLT is that it can be repeated several times with equal chance of success



## **Immediately after the laser treatment**

- Your eye pressure will be checked about one hour later
- You will normally be asked to continue your normal glaucoma eye drops
- Your doctor will schedule a follow-up appointment, usually 1-2 months later
- You may experience mild di