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Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty

Glaucoma is a disease of the eye caused by too much pressure in the eye. This pressure is caused when the drainage system in the eye is malformed or doesn't function properly, allowing fluid to build up. This increased pressure can damage the retina and the optic nerve and result in partial or full blindness. Glaucoma can be treated with medication, eye drops and laser surgery.

Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) is used to widen the openings in the eye's drainage system, allowing better drainage, thereby lowering the pressure in the eye.

We use a burst of pure, high intensity laser energy to treat cells found in the drainage (trabecular) meshwork of the eye. These cells are removed without causing any damage or scarring, allowing the eye to drain more normally. SLT has become increasingly the choice for an intermediate step between medications and traditional glaucoma surgery or to lower the burden of patients requiring multiple glaucoma medications to control their disease. In special cases, SLT may be used in lieu of drops for initial glaucoma treatment.

This medical laser treatment is safe, painless and quick. It usually takes only a couple of minutes and is performed in our outpatient surgery center.

Serious complications with SLT are extremely rare, but the effect may wear off over time. However, because SLT targets specific cells, leaving untreated areas undamaged, it is believed that it may be safely repeated many times.

If you would like to discuss whether SLT is right for you, please schedule an appointment with us. We'll answer all your questions about glaucoma treatment and SLT so you can make an informed decision about your vision.