

GATT

(Gonio Assisted Transluminal Trabeculotomy)

What is it?

A GATT surgery is a minimally invasive surgical treatment that may be recommended when your eye pressure is too high for your eye. The aim of surgery is to lower the eye pressure thus decreasing the risk of your glaucoma progressing and causing vision loss; it will NOT improve your vision or “get back” any vision that may already be lost. A GATT surgery involves your surgeon making a small incision in the periphery of your cornea, threading an instrument typically 360 degrees through the trabecular meshwork and then removing the instrument. This procedure opens the existing drainage system of the eye thus lowering the eye pressure. If you are interested in watching a video of the procedure, an excellent resource can be found at www.glaucomaassociates.com, as the GATT was developed at that center.

What are the risks?

- Infection
- Inflammation
- Eye pressure may be too high, not significantly changed or too low (generally stabilizes with time but may require further medications or surgery)
- Excessive bleeding in the eye; some blood is expected, typically reabsorbed by the eye in the first 2-3 weeks after surgery
- Worsening of vision
- Drooping of eyelid
- Risks of injection to freeze the eye (IF USED) include perforation of eyeball, interference with circulation of the retina and systemic effects including life-threatening complications and death

CAUTION!

If you notice any of the following, please call our **office at 403-245-3730** during business hours (Mon-Thursday 9:00-4:30, and Friday 9:00 to 11:30). If you notice any of this outside of business hours, you could call your optometrist, **Alberta Health Link at 403-943-5465**, or go to the Rockyview Hospital Emergency Department (do not wait for a business day).

- Increasing or severe pain in or around the eye
- Sudden loss of vision
- Sticky or colored discharge

What should I expect?

- You will be awake during the procedure but will be offered a mild sedative to help with anxiety

- You will meet the anesthesiologist who will freeze your eye (may be frozen with either an injection or eye drops depending on surgeon preference)
- You will be directed to lay down on a surgical table where you will be covered with a surgical drape leaving only the surgical eye exposed (see below)
- You may feel the occasional pulling sensation or twinge of discomfort during the procedure but generally the procedure is not painful
- The procedure takes approximately 20 minutes to complete after which time your eye will be patched (leave on until you are seen at our office the next day)
- You will be at the surgery center for approx 2 hours then should go home to rest.
- Your follow-up appointments will be the first and second day after surgery and then less frequently over the next month depending on healing response
- The day of surgery, your eye may be achy but should not be extremely painful; comfort should gradually improve daily. Vision will likely be extremely blurry and your eye may be red but both should gradually improve over the first few weeks. An increase in pain, or ache around the brow, may indicate an increase in eye pressure and should be checked.
- You should avoid any straining, lifting over 10 lbs, bending over, exercise, rubbing the eye, getting any water in eye, swimming pools/hot tubs and dirty/dusty environments for 2-3 weeks after surgery. You should sleep propped up for 2-3 weeks after surgery. Tape the shield only over your eye when you are sleeping for the first 2 weeks after surgery.
- Antibiotic and/or anti-inflammatory drops may be required for a few months after surgery. While the aim of surgery is to lower eye pressure, glaucoma drops may continue to be required to maintain an ideal eye pressure post-operatively.
- **It may take up to 3-6 months for pressure to stabilize after surgery**

