

SELECTIVE LASER TRABECULOPLASTY (SLT)

What is SLT?

SLT does not rely on medicines, instead, uses an advanced laser system to target only specific cells of the eye - those containing melanin, a natural pigment. This allows for only these cells to be affected, leaving surrounding tissue intact. As a result, your body's own healing response helps lower the pressure in your eye.

Benefits of SLT.

Safe: SLT is not associated with systemic side effects or the compliance and cost issues of medications.

Selective: SLT utilizes selective photo-thermolysis to target only specific cells, leaving the surrounding tissue intact.

Smart: SLT stimulates the body's natural mechanisms to enhance outflow of the fluid in your eye.

Sensible: SLT therapy is reimbursed by Medicare and many other insurance providers, which minimizes your out-of-pocket expenses.

How SLT works.

Selective Laser Trabeculotomy (SLT) is an advancement over the other lasers that have been used safely and effectively in the treatment of open-angle glaucoma for more than two decades.

SLT works by using laser light to stimulate the body's own healing response to lower your eye pressure. Using a special wavelength and energy, the laser affects only pigmented (melanin containing) cells of your eye. SLT improves the flow of fluids in the eye, which in turn lowers your eye pressure.

After SLT.

Your eye pressure may drop as quickly as a day or more of having SLT performed. The doctor may treat the eye with anti-inflammatory eye drops that will be continued after the procedure. Most likely, you will have to return for follow-up visits.

How SLT is performed.

SLT is usually performed in the physician's office and only takes a few minutes. Prior to the procedure, eye drops will be given to prepare the eye for treatment. The laser applications are made through a special microscope, like the one used for eye examinations.

FAQs

- What are the side effects of SLT?

Unlike some glaucoma medications, there are no incidences of allergy or systemic side-effects with SLT. Complications are minimal but may include inflammation, temporary increase in eye pressure, conjunctivitis, or eye pain. For more information about SLT and how it may benefit you, please ask your doctor.

- Will I feel anything with the laser treatment?

The laser treatment does not cause a sensation. You may see a green flash of light and feel nothing from the laser. The lens used on your eye may cause some redness or irritation.

- Will I still need to continue using my eye drops following the SLT procedure?

Maybe. Everyone is different. Although there is a chance you can eliminate or reduce medications, SLT cannot guarantee this.