



WHAT IS GONIOTOMY?

Patient Education



WHAT IS GLAUCOMA?

Glaucoma is a group of eye diseases that can cause vision loss and blindness by damaging the optic nerve, which carries visual information from the retina to the vision centers of the brain. Our eyes constantly make aqueous humor, a fluid that maintains the shape and pressure of the eye. In healthy eyes, the fluid drains at a constant rate through a drainage system at the front of the eye. However, if fluid flow encounters increased resistance, the pressure can rise (figure 1). The elevated pressure can eventually damage the optic nerve tissue causing loss to parts of the visual field. Glaucoma cannot be cured, but we can slow disease progression by lowering your eye pressure. Treatments to lower eye pressure include medications, laser treatments, and surgery.

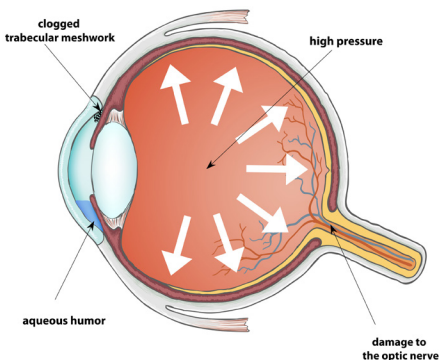


Figure 1. When the pressure of the eye is high, the nerve tissue can be damaged.

WHAT IS GONIOTOMY?

When medications and laser therapy are not enough, surgery may become the best option to lower eye pressure. Goniotomy is a minimally invasive surgical procedure that relieves eye pressure by creating an opening in the eye's natural drainage system (figure 2). A section of the covering of the drainage system, called the trabecular meshwork, is removed (figure 3). This allows fluid to drain from the inside of the eye more easily into the drainage system (figure 4). Eye pressure normalizes, and optic nerve damage can be slowed.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING GONIOTOMY?

Goniotomy can be performed alone or at the same time as cataract surgery. Medication is given to make you relaxed, and a numbing agent is applied to your eye. The surgeon inserts a surgical instrument through a tiny incision in the front of the eye to remove a portion of the tissue that is blocking or slowing fluid drainage. You can expect to feel pressure on your eye during the procedure but not pain. It is a quick procedure that can take about 5 to 15 minutes.

You will leave with a clear plastic shield over your eye, and someone will need to drive you home due to the sedatives administered prior to the procedure.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE SURGERY?

Your eye care professional will prescribe antibiotic and steroid eye drops and schedule an appointment to see you the next day and one week after the procedure. Additional appointments will be scheduled according to how your eye is healing. Immediately after surgery, it is important to keep your activity level light and avoid heavy lifting, bending, and straining. Your eye care professional will let you know when you can safely return to normal activity depending on how your recovery progresses

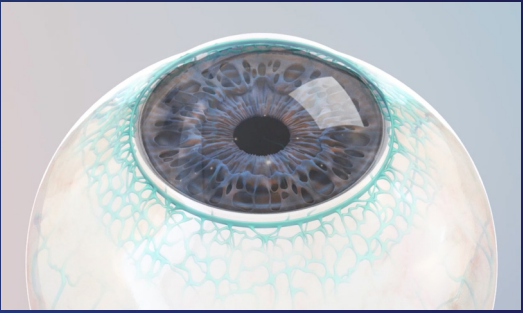


Figure 2. The drainage system of the eye is like a circular canal. In healthy eyes, the fluid flows through the trabecular meshwork to enter this system.



Figure 3: A surgical instrument is used to remove and collect a section of the tissue covering the drainage canal.

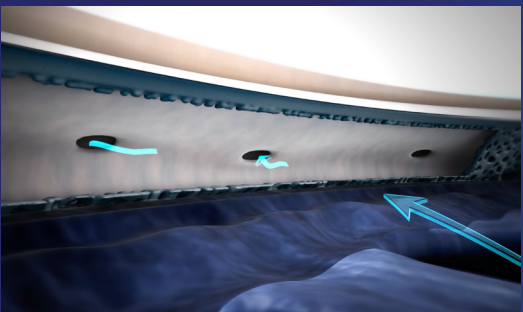


Figure 4: Once trabecular meshwork is removed, fluid drains more easily into the drainage canal.

ABOUT SIGHT SCIENCES

Sight Sciences is an eyecare technology company focused on developing and commercializing innovative solutions intended to transform care and improve patients' lives. Using minimally invasive or non-invasive approaches to target the underlying causes of the world's most prevalent eye diseases, Sight Sciences seeks to create more effective treatment paradigms that enhance patient care. To learn more, visit **SightSciences.com** or talk to your doctor about Sight Sciences products.

NOTES



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Talk to your ophthalmologist about treatment options and next steps to determine if goniotomy is right for you.



For more information, scan the QR code, visit **SightSciences.com**, or email us at glaucoma@sightsciences.com.

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