the laser can actually cause the vision to diminish as a result of leakage of fluid from blood vessels within the eye.

If you have further questions regarding the proposed procedure, please direct them to your doctor or one of our technicians.

CENTER FOR SIGHT

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WHEN IS THE ARGON LASER USED FOR THE RETINA?

LASER APPOINTMENT:

☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday
☐ Thursday ☐ Friday

Date:_____ Time:_____ AM PM

LOCATION:

San Joaquin Laser & Surgery Center
1805 N. California Street, Suite 101A
Stockton, CA 95204

POST OPERATIVE APPOINTMENT:

☐ Monday ☐ Tuesday ☐ Wednesday
☐ Thursday ☐ Friday

Date:_____ Time:_____ AM PM

☐ California Street Office ☐ Manteca Office

☐ Tracy Office ☐ Oakdale Office ☐ March Lane Office

WHEN IS THE ARGON LASER USED FOR RETINA?

The argon laser has developed into a useful tool for treatment of retinal disease. The unique properties of laser light give it useful qualities. The laser light is emitted in waves of all the same length. It can be measured and focused onto a precise target, and this is especially useful when treating retinal disease. Most applications of the laser are painless, but occasionally, a "pinprick" sensation is felt if the spot is close to a nerve. The argon laser is the most commonly used laser for treatment of retinal disease. It is used for the following purposes:

1. PANRETINAL PHOTOCOAGULATION (PRP)

This is the usual treatment for diabetic retinopathy. In this treatment, hundreds or even thousands of laser burns are scattered throughout the retina, excluding the macular region from which we obtain our sharp central vision. PRP works by reducing the retinas' need for oxygen and other nutrients and is most commonly done for proliferative diabetic retinopathy. It is also used in branch and central vein occlusions where new vessels are present. Under these conditions, the entire vision is threatened by vitreous bleeding or retinal detachment.

2. FOCAL TREATMENTS TO THE MACULA

Here, the central vision is threatened by leaking blood vessels near the area that gives us good central vision. This is seen in some diabetic patients and in patients with macular degeneration. Unfortunately, not all patients with macular degeneration are candidates for laser therapy.

3. SEALING OBLIQUE RETINAL BREAKS

Peripheral tears of the retina can be quickly and effectively spot-welded back in place by encircling the tear with several rows of laser application. This allows the tear to be effectively sealed and prevents it from going on to the more serious problem of retinal detachment.

COMPLICATIONS: The complications from the argon laser are very rare. The most common is a small amount of bleeding that is self-limited and will clear spontaneously. Vision is often blurry for a period of anywhere from 30 minutes to several hours, at which time it will gradually return to its pre-treatment level. This is generally a response in the retina much like we have when a flashbulb goes off in front of our eyes. There may be mild irritation, or an iritis which can develop in the eye. If this occurs, it can be treated easily with eye drops. In a very small percentage of patients,