

WHAT IS A LASER IRIDECTOMY?

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

CENTER FOR SIGHT

1805 N. California Street, Suite 101
Stockton, CA 95204
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WHAT IS A LASER IRIDECTOMY?

The level of pressure in the eye is maintained by a steady flow of fluid that enters the eye from what is called the ciliary body. The fluid ultimately drains from the eye into small pores that are called trabecular meshwork.

In some patients, there is an actual shallowing of the approach to the trabecular meshwork. This is called a narrow angle. Essentially in this entity, if the pupil dilates, the pathway to the trabecular meshwork or drainage from the eye becomes completely closed. This results in a sudden rise in pressure in the eye, or an ACUTE GLAUCOMA. The narrow angle is seen in many people as a congenital variant. It is something with which they were born. This is, in fact, true more so in farsighted patients. Some patients, however, can actually have a narrowing of the angle with age as a cataract develops, and the lens swells in the eye.

HOW THE PROCEDURE IS DONE

Regardless of the cause, a very narrow angle is a concern because of the potential for an acute rise in the pressure. When we see someone who has an angle that is capable of what we

call “closure”, we perform a laser iridectomy. In this situation, we use our laser to make a small hole in the iris (the colored part of the eye). This allows the fluid to then drain properly from the eye when the pupil is dilated, whether the dilation is the spontaneous dilation that occurs in the course of a day, or the dilation that is actually induced by drops administered in the office. The laser procedure takes approximately ten minutes and is generally accompanied by either no discomfort or only a mild degree of discomfort. Recovery is rapid, and once the laser has been performed, it never has to be repeated.

COMPLICATIONS: The potential complications are few. Intraocular pressure may be elevated shortly after the application of the laser. All patients need to be rechecked for this within 24 hours following surgery. Other possible complications include hemorrhage, inflammation, and slight refractive changes. It is possible to damage vision with laser; however, this is distinctly rare.

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