

refractive changes.

One final point is worth mentioning, and that is with the argon laser, you will like **NOT** be able to stop your other glaucoma medications. You will likely need to take it just as you had in the past, but with the medication, we should now see a much lower level of pressure following the laser than we did before.

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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WHAT IS AN ARGON LASER TRABECULOPLASTY?

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

WHAT IS AN ARGON LASER TRABECULOPLASTY?

LASER TRABECULOPLASTY (LTP) was developed in the late 1970's by Dr. Jim Wise of Oklahoma City as an alternative to conventional glaucoma surgery.

LTP is now a proven tool in the treatment of glaucoma. While medical therapy, in the form of drops, is still the preferred initial treatment for glaucoma, sometimes patients cannot tolerate glaucoma medicines because of allergies, sensitivities, or other drug-related side effects. At other times, intraocular pressure is just not well controlled by the medicines being used. In either of these cases, LTP should be considered as a logical next step in good glaucoma control.

HOW THE PROCEDURE IS DONE

Argon laser trabeculoplasty is an almost painless procedure in which laser light is directed to a delicate structure (the trabecular meshwork) where intraocular fluids normally exit the eye. Multiple laser bursts change this tissue in some, as yet mysterious way to greatly enhance the exit of the intraocular fluids. This,

in turn, reduces high intraocular pressure, the real culprit in glaucoma.

A few anesthetic drops are used to numb the eye. The placement of the laser is done through a contact lens since exact focusing of the light is necessary to achieve the desired effect. The procedure takes only a few minutes and is done in an outpatient setting. Vision may be blurry for a few hours, but it returns to normal by the next day.

Results have been very favorable. The amount of pressure reduction depends upon many factors including age of the patient, the exact type of glaucoma present, local tissue response to the therapy, and skill of the surgeon. Taking into consideration several studies, the average reduction in pressure is 6 – 8 mm. A small minority of patients derives NO benefit at all from the procedure, but in general, over 90% of patients get a good response.

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 the first 4 hours. Other possible complications include hemorrhage, inflammation and slight