

SEDGEWICK EYE ASSOCIATES, P.C.

CONSENT FOR: SELECTIVE LASER TRABECULAPLASTY (SLT)

☐**RIGHT EYE**☐**LEFT EYE**

This is a laser technique used for patients who have a high risk of developing or who have open angle glaucoma. **SLT is in addition to and does not replace glaucoma drops.** This laser makes very small holes in the drainage area inside of the eye in order to let more fluid drain out of the eye and into our blood vessels in order to lower the pressure inside your eye. (The fluid does not go outside of your eye). Most individuals respond well to this technique but a small subset do not. I like this procedure because it is so easy to do and can, for high-risk glaucoma suspect patients, potentially delay the onset of glaucoma damage. Remember, intra ocular pressure is highest at 3 AM for everybody and we obviously don't know what that number is. Also, based on autopsy studies, 40% of your optic nerve will be dead before defects show up on the visual field test, our most reliable test for detecting glaucoma so we are not good at detecting early glaucoma damage. Also, the biggest concern we have in glaucoma treatment are patients not taking their drops. These three reasons are also why I like this procedure so much.

The procedure is performed with two sittings per eye. The laser machine looks like the examination microscope that the I use to look at your eyes during an exam. The laser itself makes a bright flash, about as bright as a camera. Almost everybody finds the procedure comfortable and without any significant pain. Some individuals feel a little pinch during the procedure. The procedure takes about 20 seconds to perform. I will laser half of the eye at a time. The second half can be done 2 weeks later (insurance rules). I will give you a prescription for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drops **4 times a day for 2 weeks** after each laser treatment. Recent studies show that performing SLT in this manner increases its effectiveness. After the SLT, I ask that someone drives you or that you take an UBER back home or to work. Once you are home or at work, you can do whatever you want. I ask this due to the risk of you getting into a car accident on the way home and blaming me for the accident, even though your vision was not significantly affected. I do have work excuses for the day of SLT available upon request.

If you are taking glaucoma drops before the laser, continue to take your glaucoma drops as usual after the laser.

Complications: Although very rare, you might need new glaucoma drops after the procedure for a week. This would be in addition to the non-steroidal drops mentioned above. It will depend on whether the pressure inside the eye has gone up a lot or not. I haven't had anyone need this in over 2,500 SLT's I've performed over the last 3 years. But if so, they are needed for only a week.

Other risks from this procedure are that it may not work to lower the pressure of the fluid inside your eye. If the laser doesn't work to lower your pressure, the use of glaucoma drops has been shown to be as effective after the procedure as before the procedure.

Alternatives: You can use drops to treat your glaucoma. Glaucoma drops and this laser technique have been shown to be equally effective at controlling glaucoma. The laser technique has the advantage of keeping your pressure inside the eye lower if you miss the eye with your drops or forget to take your glaucoma drops.

X_____ Date:_____
Patient or authorized person

X_____ Date:_____
Witness