**Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) Frequently Asked Questions**

***What is SLT?***

SLT is an in-office procedure used to lower the eye pressure in patients. Elevated eye pressure can damage the optic nerve and result in vision loss; this condition is called glaucoma.

***Why should I have this procedure?***

SLT lowers eye pressure with a single, generally painless procedure in the office with minimal recovery time and excellent safety. The treatment is another option for lowering eye pressure and protecting your vision besides eye drops, implants or surgery.

***How does SLT work?***

The front of the eye is filled with fluid. SLT lowers your eye pressure by allowing more of this fluid to leave the eye. This is different from your tears. This fluid is inside your eye and exits via internal drainage canals. The laser energy from SLT modifies the drainage canals and causes them to work better.

***How is the procedure performed?***

You will be positioned at a slit lamp, just as you are when you receive your normal eye examination. Your doctor will use a special contact lens that directs the laser toward the drainage canals in your eye. The process takes approximately ten minutes.

***How effective is SLT?***

SLT has been shown to be at least as safe and effective as the most powerful glaucoma drops available. It can be used as the first option for lowering eye pressure or it can be used in combination with eye drops, implants or surgery.

***How quickly should I expect results?***

SLT may take one to three months for the treatment to reach its full effectiveness.

***How long does the effect last?***

SLT produces an eye pressure-lowering effect that generally lasts between one to five years, and in some cases longer. In one study, almost 75% of SLT patients were able to go three years without adding a medication.

***Can SLT be repeated?***

The effect of the laser does wear off over several years. Fortunately, scar tissue does not form and the procedure can be safely repeated. However, repeat treatments may not lower the pressure as much as the first treatment.

***What are the risks?***

SLT is generally a very safe procedure with side effects that are mild and temporary. They may include inflammation, pressure spike, discomfort, blurred vision, light sensitivity, and eye redness. Rarely, a corneal abrasion from the contact lens used during the procedure can occur. In some cases, the laser may not effectively lower the pressure.

***Can I stop my pressure drops after the procedure?***

SLT is about as effective as one glaucoma medication. Patients taking only one medication may be able to stop their medication as directed by their doctor. However, some types of glaucoma are difficult to treat and require multiple medications to effectively lower the eye pressure. If this is the case, laser treatment combined with continued use of eye drops or surgery may be necessary.