



Clearly Focused on You

eye care
associates, inc.

Tube Shunts

Glaucoma is a group of diseases characterized by elevated eye pressure resulting in damage to the nerve that is responsible for sight. It is usually treated by eye drops and laser. When these conservative methods do not adequately control the eye pressure, your surgeon may recommend surgery.

The eye is constantly making fluid that nourishes the eye. The fluid is drained from the eye at the trabecular meshwork. When poor drainage is present, the pressure in the eye will rise. This elevated pressure eventually destroys the cells in the eye responsible for sight. Your doctor attempts to control this pressure rise with drops and lasers. When these treatments do not lower the pressure sufficiently, surgery is the next course of action.

What is Involved With Implanting a Tube Shunt?

A tube shunt procedure involves the implantation of a device that is designed to make an artificial canal for the drainage of the fluid inside your eye. This allows the fluid to bypass the slow drainage system of your own eye and be absorbed into the bloodstream. It takes approximately 4 to 8 weeks before it begins to fully function. This is a safe guard to prevent your eye from over filtration. This procedure is chosen whenever your surgeon believes other types of glaucoma surgery may fail.

Are There Complications Associated With Tube Shunts?

As with any surgery, complications can occur after a tube shunt is implanted. Some complications include:

- Bleeding in the eye
- Extremely low pressure in the eye
- Double vision
- Sudden permanent loss of vision
- Infection in the eye

For more information, please contact our patient advisor by phone at 330-747-2733 or by email at info@eyecareassociates.com.

The intent of this handout is to educate users about eye care. Information found on www.eyecareassociates.com is not intended to replace medical advice. Questions about treatment information should be addressed by your physician.