



Clearly Focused on You

eye care
associates, inc.

Canaloplasty

Glaucoma usually develops gradually, causes no pain, and often goes undiagnosed. Yet it steals vision from thousands of Americans every year, making it the leading cause of treatable and preventable blindness in the United States today.

Most people may not even realize that they have glaucoma because it typically has no symptoms. Indicators of the disease include blurred vision, loss of peripheral or side vision and inability to adjust your eyes to darkened rooms. These symptoms, however, are very late signs of the disease.

The eye is filled with a clear fluid that helps maintain the eye's round shape. Eye pressure builds up when the fluid cannot circulate properly, resulting in damage to the optic nerves, like wires, that each carry visual images to the brain. These messages combine to provide central and peripheral vision. When nerves are damaged by glaucoma, blind spots occur in various areas of vision. These blind spots may not be noticed until significant damage has occurred to the optic nerve. If the entire nerve is destroyed by glaucoma, the result is irreparable blindness.

Regular eye examinations are the only effective way to diagnose glaucoma.

Glaucoma can be treated. The goal of glaucoma treatment is to preserve present vision and prevent further damage. It is important to remember that there is no cure for glaucoma and damage from the disease cannot be reversed. Eye drops, pills, ointments and/or laser may be used to control eye pressure. In more advanced or complicated cases, a new pathway for fluid drainage is surgically created.

What is Canaloplasty?

Canaloplasty is one of the several new surgical alternatives to lower pressure for patients with glaucoma. It takes advantage of the eye's drainage system to safely treat elevated pressure. Canaloplasty has helped many glaucoma patients reduce their IOP and dependence on medications. And unlike traditional procedures, it has fewer complications and follow-up visits.

Canaloplasty is a useful surgical option in patients with open angle glaucoma, especially in patients at high risk for infection or bleeding, and those patients who have had complication in the other eye from traditional procedures.

How is Canaloplasty Performed?

First, your doctor will make a small incision in the eye. The advanced Canaloplasty microcatheter will be inserted into the eye's drainage system canal. Using the microcatheter, your doctor will circle the canal and enlarge it, which will help the aqueous fluid drain properly. The microcatheter is then removed and a suture is placed within the canal to keep it open. By restoring your eye's natural drainage system, the pressure inside your eye is usually lowered.

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.