

## **Trabeculectomy / Tube Shunt Surgery**

---

### **What is glaucoma?**

The front part of the eye contains fluid. This fluid normally drains away through the part inside the eye called the trabecular meshwork. When this meshwork does not work and fluid cannot escape, pressure builds up inside the eye. As a result of this, sight can become damaged permanently.

### **How can glaucoma be treated?**

Glaucoma can be treated with eye drops or possibly laser treatment. If this fails to control the pressure in the eye, an operation called a trabeculectomy or tube shunt may be needed.

### **What is trabeculectomy surgery or tube shunt surgery?**

Trabeculectomy surgery is when a hole or fistula is made in the white part of the eye under your upper eyelid.

Tube shunt surgery is a glaucoma implant to drain fluid from the eye. The eye pressure is relieved because fluid can now flow through this new area with less resistance. A small white pale area will appear at the surgical site.

### **What happens during a trabeculectomy or tube shunt?**

The surgery is done under local anesthetic. Local anesthetic will numb the eye so that you will not feel anything. The surgery takes 30 to 60 minutes.

### **Will surgery improve my sight?**

Unfortunately, the surgery cannot bring back any sight that has been lost. Surgery can save the remaining sight of the eye.

### **What are the risks and benefits of this surgery?**

Your doctor will explain the risks and benefits before you sign the consent form. Make sure you have your questions answered before signing the consent.

### **How will I feel after surgery?**

After surgery, your sight may be blurred and seem worse. This is usually only a temporary situation. Your eye will need time to heal after surgery. This takes about 8 weeks.

### **What activities can I do after surgery?**

You may read or watch TV but you may find your vision blurry at first. You may go for walks but avoid strenuous exercise for 1 week after surgery. Slowly resume your regular activities.

### **How do I care for my eye?**

Keep the eye patch on until the next day when you see your surgeon. You may need to use eye drops or ointments after eye surgery. Your surgeon will tell you when and how often to use them.

Wear your glasses or sunglasses during the day to protect your eye. Wear the eye shield at night. Do not rub your eye.

### **When do I see the surgeon again?**

You will be given an appointment to see your surgeon the day after your surgery. It is important to keep this appointment. The surgeon will remove the eye patch and check your eye.

Bring all your eye medications and any forms you need filled out with you to this appointment. This is a good time to ask about any questions or concerns you have about your recovery.

### **If you have problems**

If the pain in your eye becomes severe, call your surgeon.

If you cannot contact your surgeon, go to the Emergency Department of St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (either Charlton Street downtown site, or the Urgent Care Centre in Stoney Creek).