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PRACTICE EMPHASIS

*** MEDICAL THERAPY OF EYE DISORDERS & DISEASES**
*** EMPHASIS IN DIFFICULT CONTACT LENS**
*** LASER VISION CORRECTION**
*** CLINICAL RESEARCH * DRY EYE TREATMENT**
*** CHILDREN'S VISION * LOW VISION**

Informed Consent for Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT)

Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty, or SLT,is a form of laser surgery that is used to lower intraocular pressure in glaucoma. It is used when eye drop medications are not lowering the eye pressure enough or are causing significant side effects. It may sometimes be used as initial treatment in glaucoma.SLT is a laser technique used to lower eye pressure in patients with glaucoma. SLT does this by stretching open the eye's drain by placing small burns next to the drain. The pressure may also be reduced from a recruitment of certain blood cells, which help to clean out the eye's drain.

1. **Who is a candidate for SLT?**
   Patients who have open-angle glaucoma (the drainage system in the front part of the eye is open) and are in need of lowering of their intraocular pressure (IOP) are eligible for the procedure. Your eye doctor will make the final determination if you are a candidate.

   How does it work? Laser energy is applied to the drainage tissue in the eye. This starts a chemical and biological change in the tissue that results in better drainage of fluid through the drain and out of the eye. This eventually results in lowering of IOP. It may take 1-3 months for the results to appear. Most patients respond well to SLT, but some do not respond at all. It is difficult to predict how well the laser will work for you, and no guarantee or assurance can be made as to the results that may be obtained. The SLT procedure typically takes 1-2 minutes. You will hear clicking and may see a flashing light during the procedure, but most patients do not find SLT uncomfortable.

2. **Why is it called Selective?**
   SLT is performed using an Nd:YAG laser. The type of laser used has minimal heat energy absorption because it is only taken up by selected pigmented tissue in the eye. Sometimes it is referred to as a "cold laser." Because of this, the procedure produces less scar tissue and has minimal pain.

3. **What are the risks?**
   One key aspect of SLT is a favorable side effect profile, even when compared with glaucoma medications. Post-operative inflammation is common but generally mild, and treated with observation or eye drops or an oral non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. There is an approximately 5% incidence of IOP elevation after laser, which can be managed by glaucoma medications and usually goes away after 24 hours. After the SLT, most patients notice mild blurring and irritation. This generally clears up in a few hours to a few days. There is a very small chance your vision may be permanently affected from SLT.

   The greatest risk of SLT is that the eye pressure may go up after the laser. To help prevent this pressure spike, you will receive drops before and after the laser. Most people will have their pressure checked about 1 hour after the laser. If the eye pressure does go up, we may give you medications to help lower the pressure.

   In very rare cases, the eye pressure may go up and not come down with medicines. If this happens, you may require surgery in the operating room to lower the pressure. After the laser, you will need to use a drop 2 times a day for 4 days to help the eye heal. You may begin the drops when you get home after the laser treatment. In most cases, you will return to have your pressure checked in 2 weeks. It generally takes 4-6 weeks to obtain the full pressure reduction from SLT.

4. **How effective is it?**
   SLT lowers the IOP by about 30% when used as initial therapy. This is comparable to the IOP lowering of the most powerful and commonly used class of glaucoma medication (prostaglandin analogs). This effect may be reduced if the patient is already on glaucoma medications.

4a. How long does the effect last?

The effect will generally last between 1-5 years, and in rare cases, longer than that. If it does not last at least 6-12 months, it is usually not considered successful. You may require additional laser surgery to lower your pressure if it is not sufficiently lower after the first treatment. SLT may lose its effect over time, and regular pressure checks with your doctor will still be necessary even if you have an excellent pressure reduction.

5. **What happens if it wears off?**
   If SLT is effective at lowering IOP but this wears off over several years, the procedure can be repeated But the second treatment may not be as effective as the first and may not last as long. If SLT is not initially successful, repeat treatment is not likely to be effective. Alternatively, glaucoma medication can be used if the effect wears off over time.

6. **What happens if it doesn't work?**
   If SLT fails to lower the IOP, then the glaucoma is treated by other means such as medications or conventional surgery. The laser does not affect the success of these other types of treatment.

7. **What is the cost?**
   Since the procedure is an accepted glaucoma treatment, and is FDA approved, it is covered by Medicare and medical insurance. The cost for an uninsured individual or with an insurance co-pay will vary.

8. **Will I still need to use glaucoma medications?**
   Some patients can be controlled with just laser treatment. Others require additional IOP lowering and may therefore need to use glaucoma medication as well. Think of the SLT as equivalent to one glaucoma medication. Just as some patients will require more than one glaucoma medication to control their IOP, some may also require laser plus one or more glaucoma medications. It is important to remember that SLT is not a cure for glaucoma, just as medication and surgery are not. Whatever method is used to treat glaucoma, appropriate follow up and testing with your eye care professional is critical.

I authorize Hopewell Lambertville Eye to share my clinical information with Princeton Eye Group 419 North Harrison St., Princeton NJ 08540 (609-921-9437) or David Galiani, MD 14 Memorial Dr , Doylestown, PA (215) 345-5144 to be able to perform an LPI on my Right / Left eye.

The following has been fully explained to me to my satisfaction: the nature and purpose of SLT; alternative treatment options; and the risks and possible complications, including, but not limited to, pressure spikes, loss of effect, infection and loss of vision. I consent to the administration of drops before and after the laser to decrease the likelihood of a pressure spike.

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE CONSENT FOR AN LPI AND THAT THE EXPLANATIONS THEREIN REFERRED TO WERE MADE TO ME. If a patient is unable to give informed consent, an individual who certifies that he/she is legally empowered to act on behalf of the patient may give consent and sign above noting relation to the patient.

_____ _____ _____ _____

Patient Name (print) Patient Signature Date/Time witness

_____ _____

Hopewell Lambertville Eye: Optometric Physician Signature / date