

The Hutchinson Clinic offers selective laser trabeculoplasty through Dr. Chad Denison. Dr. Denison is board certified with the American Board of Ophthalmology and has been with the Hutchinson Clinic since 1999.

He is affiliated with the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. Dr. Denison can help you decide which treatments will be most effective for your glaucoma and other eye issues.



Chad Denison, MD

Better treatment for your glaucoma is available now at the Hutchinson Clinic.

For a consultation with Dr. Chad Denison, please call 620-669-2592.



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Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT)

Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty or SLT, is a form of laser surgery used to lower intraocular pressure in glaucoma. SLT does not rely on medicines, instead using an advanced laser system to target only the melanin containing cells of the eye. By targeting only these cells, your body is able to use natural healing responses to lower the pressure in the eye. SLT is available on an outpatient basis at the Hutch Clinic.

Benefits of SLT

Vision loss from glaucoma is permanent, but can usually be prevented with early detection and treatment. Glaucoma management is a lifelong process that requires frequent monitoring and treatment. Doctor visits should be scheduled regularly to stay ahead of the disease. Treatments such as SLT can improve eye pressure, and may reduce or eliminate the need for glaucoma medications.

Safe: SLT is not associated with systemic side effects or the compliance and cost issues of medication. It has been in use for more than a dozen years in the United States

Selective: SLT uses selective photothermolysis to target only certain cells needing treatment, leaving the surrounding tissue intact. The procedure produces less scar tissue, and pain is minimal.

Smart: SLT stimulates the body's natural mechanisms to enhance the outflow of the fluid in the eye.

Sensible: SLT therapy is reimbursed by Medicare and many other insurance providers, minimizing out-of-pocket expenses.

How SLT is Performed

SLT is usually performed in your physician's office and takes only a few minutes. Prior to the procedure, eye drops will be given to prepare the eye for treatment. The laser applications are made through a special microscope, similar to the one used for eye exams. Laser energy is applied to the drainage tissue in the eye. This starts a chemical and biological change that results in better drainage in the eye, which results in a lowering of the intraocular pressure in the eye.

What to Expect Following SLT

Eye pressure reduction is noted within the first few weeks after the laser procedure. The effect varies, but may last years. You may need to use anti-inflammatory drops for a few days following the procedure. Follow up visits with your doctor will be required.



Frequently asked questions about SLT

What are the side effects of SLT?

Unlike some glaucoma medications, there are no issues of allergy or systemic side-effects with SLT. Possible complications are minimal, but may temporarily include inflammation, increase in eye pressure, conjunctivitis or eye pain.

Will I feel anything with the laser treatment?

The laser treatment usually causes little, if any, sensation. You will see flashes of light during the procedure. The lens used on your eye may cause some redness or irritation.

Will I still need to use eye drops following SLT treatment?

Perhaps. Everyone responds individually to the treatment. There is a good chance the SLT treatment will reduce or eliminate your need for medications, but there is no guarantee of this. If other treatments are needed, the SLT will have no effect on the success of the other treatments.