



## Canaloplasty Surgery for Glaucoma

Canaloplasty is a non-penetrating procedure designed to enhance and restore the eye's natural drainage system to provide sustained reduction of eye pressure. Canaloplasty utilizes microcatheter technology in a less invasive procedure than traditional glaucoma filtering surgery. Canaloplasty does not penetrate into the anterior chamber of the eye, so there is less risk of the complications associated with traditional glaucoma filtering surgery. Recovery of vision after canaloplasty is quicker, and there are fewer postoperative visits to the doctor. There are also fewer restrictions on activity immediately after surgery, so the patient can return to normal life more quickly.

Like glaucoma filtering surgery, canaloplasty is performed in the operating room with the use of microsurgical instruments and an operating microscope. The surgery is performed as an outpatient procedure under local anesthesia. An incision is made behind the upper eyelid, into the conjunctiva, which is the skin covering the surface of the eye. The conjunctiva is the part of the eye that turns red when your eye is irritated. Your doctor lifts this skin to expose the sclera, which is the wall of the eyeball. Your doctor will then create a tiny incision in the sclera to gain access to the drainage canal (Schlemm's canal) of the eye. A microcatheter will circumnavigate the canal around your iris, enlarging the drainage system through the injection of a sterile, gel-like material called viscoelastic. The catheter is then removed and a suture is placed within the canal and tightened. This tightened suture ensures that the canal remains open. By opening the canal, the pressure inside your eye can be relieved. Your doctor then closes the incision in the sclera and the conjunctiva with tiny stitches. Fluid leaves the eye through the natural drainage system and is absorbed into the blood stream as it would be in an eye without glaucoma.

A certain percentage of patients will experience a gradual increase in eye pressure in the months or years following glaucoma filtering surgery. These patients will start using eye drops again to lower the eye pressure, or may require repeat operations to lower the pressure.