



NORTHWEST EYE SURGEONS

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WHATCOM EYE SURGEONS

A Division of Northwest Eye Surgeons of Seattle

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Laser Treatment for Narrow Angle Glaucoma

Narrow angle glaucoma can be treated with a laser. This laser treatment can be used to prevent an attack of narrow angle glaucoma, and it can also be used during an attack of narrow angle glaucoma, in order to lower the eye pressure. Narrow angle glaucoma involves a narrowing of the drainage area, or angle, of the eye. This narrowing is caused because the iris of the eye moves closer to the drainage area in predisposed individuals. If the iris moves so close that it closes the drainage area, then the intraocular pressure increases, and narrow angle glaucoma is the result.

In laser treatment for narrow angle glaucoma, the laser is used to create a tiny microscopic hole in the iris of the eye, called an Iridotomy, through which fluid may pass in order to reach the drain. This allows the iris to fall back away from the drainage area. This usually cures or prevents progression of narrow angle glaucoma.

This laser treatment is performed with topical anesthetic drops, and can be completed in a few minutes and it involves minimal discomfort for the patient. The laser is attached to the machine that your eye doctor uses to examine your eyes. During the laser procedure, the patient will notice multiple bright flashing lights, and may experience occasional stinging in the eye. Normally the patient does not experience any pain.

After the laser treatment, your eye doctor will ask you to stay in the office for approximately one hour so that the eye pressure can be checked. Sometimes, you may be asked to return in twenty-four hours for a repeat pressure check. Usually, you will also be asked to return in one week for a pressure check and assessment of the treatment.