

YAG laser selective trabeculoplasty (SLT) for glaucoma

At Peel Vision, we use the advanced TANGO™ SLT/YAG combination laser, a state-of-the-art laser using ultra-low energy levels, ensuring the highest levels of safety and precision.

Why am I having YAG laser SLT?

Dr Then has diagnosed you with glaucoma.

Dr Then has recommended that you undergo YAG laser SLT to help improve the long-term control of your glaucoma. You may already be on other treatments for your glaucoma, such as eye drops, or have had previous laser or surgical procedures for your glaucoma.

What does YAG laser SLT do?

YAG laser SLT involves the application of a focused laser to open the drainage system in your eye, known as the trabecular meshwork. This will help increase the fluid flow out of the eye, leading to a long-term lowering of the internal eye pressure.

What are the benefits of YAG laser SLT?

The goal of any recommended treatment for glaucoma is to help slow the progression of damage to your optic nerve from glaucoma by keeping your eye pressure as low as possible over a long period of time. Treatments do not “cure” glaucoma, they will only slow its progress and help you maintain your best vision for as long as possible. This laser will not improve your vision.

In some patients, laser SLT may reduce or eliminate the need for ongoing eye-drop therapy for your glaucoma. This will depend on the response of your eye to the laser. Dr Then will closely monitor your response to the laser SLT and will advise if your glaucoma eye drops can be reduced or stopped.

What are the risks of YAG laser SLT?

YAG laser SLT is generally considered to be a safe and well-tolerated procedure. The risks of this laser are rare and can generally be treated if detected early. They include, but are not limited to:

- A sudden rise in the eye pressure (usually within the first 24 hours)
- Inflammation in the eye
- Loss of vision from rare complications (eg retinal tears, bleeding)
- Failure to lower the eye pressure

What will occur during my YAG laser SLT?

Laser SLT is performed by Dr Then in the clinic. Local anaesthetic drops are first placed in the eye. You will be comfortably seated at the laser machine, with your head gently placed in a headrest. A special contact-lens is placed in your eye, which helps to hold the eyelids open and will focus the laser beam onto the drainage angle of the eye. The laser is then applied using frequent pulses (generally 25-50 pulses per treatment).

This is usually a painless procedure, although some patients may experience slight discomfort when the laser pulses are applied. There should not be severe pain during the laser.

What happens after my YAG laser SLT?

After the procedure is complete, you will be observed in our waiting room for a minimum of 15 minutes. You will then be allowed to return home with your driver. You will be advised to rest and take it easy in the first 24 hours after this laser.

Dr Then may prescribe mild anti-inflammatory eye drops to be used for 1 week after laser. Any regular glaucoma drops should be continued as normal following laser.

Most patients do not experience significant pain or visual blur after YAG laser SLT. However, some patients may experience a slight aching discomfort for a few hours after the laser. You may take simple painkillers for any mild discomfort after this laser (eg Panadol or ibuprofen).

You will be scheduled for a follow-up appointment in our clinic the next day and 1 week later. This is to check your eye pressure and to ensure that you have not developed any problems after the laser.

You should NEVER experience severe pain or visual loss after this laser. If this occurs, please call our rooms immediately on (08) 9535 4321. If after-hours, please present to the Peel Health Campus emergency department for immediate assessment; Dr Then will be advised if this occurs and will arrange an appointment to see you soon after.

Patient acceptance of risk

It is impossible for Dr Then to inform of every possible complication that may occur. Results cannot be guaranteed and more treatment/surgery may be necessary.

We confirm you have signed a consent form with Dr Then to proceed with this procedure. Dr Then has answered any questions to your satisfaction and costs of having YAG laser selective trabeculoplasty performed have been explained.

If you have any additional queries, please do not hesitate to call 9535 4321.