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## TRABECULECTOMY

**Q *What is trabeculectomy?***

**A** It is an operation on the eye which aims to reduce the pressure in the eye. It is a treatment for glaucoma.

**Q *What is glaucoma?***

**A** Glaucoma is a disease of the eyes which causes the pressure to rise. If this is untreated the vision can be damaged.

**Q *How is glaucoma normally treated?***

**A** Eye drops are normally prescribed first but if these do not control the pressure adequately a trabeculectomy is needed.

**Q *How is a trabeculectomy operation done?***

**A** It is a surgical operation which can be performed under local or general anaesthesia. A small valve is created close to the surface of the eye beneath the upper eyelid. This allows fluid to escape from the eye. It does not escape completely to the surface but is absorbed underneath the surface layers of the eye. The operation normally takes 20-30 minutes.

**Q *What are the results of trabeculectomy surgery?***

**A** When surgery is necessary for glaucoma a trabeculectomy is the best choice. The pressure can be controlled in most patients who have trabeculectomy surgery without the need for long-term eye drops in addition. Some people however do need to continue with their glaucoma eye drops in order to achieve good control of the glaucoma.

**Q *Are there any side effects or complications of trabeculectomy surgery?***

**A** Yes. Most people have blurred vision in the operated eye for about two weeks after the surgery, sometimes a little longer. The vision usually clears well. It is sometimes necessary to change the spectacle lens for that eye.

In a very small number of patients who have very advanced glaucoma trabeculectomy surgery can result in reduced vision permanently. In these circumstances there was usually no alternative to trabeculectomy surgery to attempt to save the sight of the eye. If there is a risk of this it will be discussed fully with you before the operation.

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