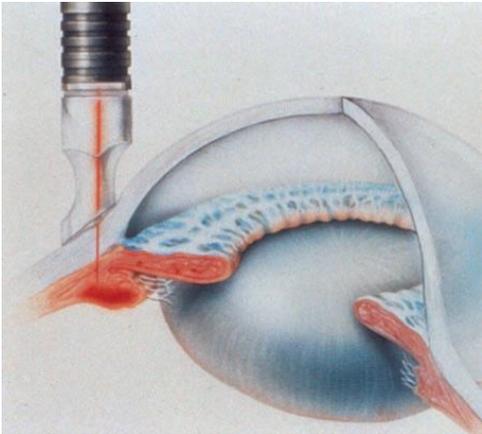


## Transscleral diode laser cyclophotocoagulation



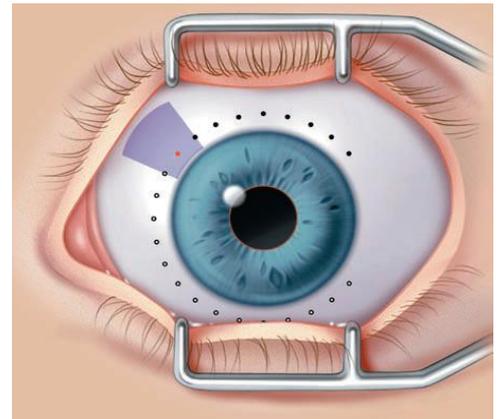
This is a laser treatment which aims to reduce the pressure inside the eye. It does this by disrupting the tissue inside the eye that forms the fluid that keeps the eye pressurized. It may also increase the drainage of fluid from the eye.

Diode laser treatment is often done after other glaucoma treatments have failed. It will not improve vision. The aim is to lower the pressure inside the eye to try and prevent further vision loss from glaucoma.

Before the procedure the eye is made completely numb with an injection around the eye. After lying down, a small clamp holds the eye open and the laser probe is placed on the eye. A number of laser applications are made around the eye (see dots below).

Normal glaucoma eyedrops are initially to be continued after the treatment along with some extra anti-inflammatory eyedrops. There may be some dull pain after the numbing medication wears off. This can usually be controlled with over-the-counter pain relief such as paracetamol and/or ibuprofen.

As with any medical treatment there are risks involved. However it must be remembered that ***your doctor will only recommend treatment to a sighted eye if they think the risk of vision loss without treatment is higher than with treatment.***



Inflammation afterwards is common and is usually controlled with eyedrops. In some cases this inflammation can cause decreased vision which can usually be reversed with medications. Extremely rarely, inflammation can occur in both eyes after treatment in only one eye which could also cause vision loss, but again is usually treatable. It is also possible for the treatment to work too well and cause the eye to go soft and lose vision. The chance of complications varies depending on the initial type of glaucoma.

The pressure lowering effect may be observed after one day but usually takes at least a month to see the full benefit. The procedure may need to be repeated if the desired pressure lowering effect is not seen. The average number of treatments needed is two per eye, but this is variable.