

# OPTOMETRY SCOPE MODERNIZATION



## Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT)

Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT) is now considered the first treatment of choice for some forms of open-angle glaucoma. It is also a valuable treatment for patients who cannot afford glaucoma medications, or for whom medication is not appropriate.

This glaucoma treatment preserves vision and limits vision loss.

The procedure lowers eye pressure by applying a low-energy laser to the trabecular meshwork of the eye. This stimulates a biochemical response that increases eye drainage.

The SLT procedure has been used since the mid 1990s in other jurisdictions and takes between 10 and 15 minutes to complete.

In 2023, the LIGHT Study showed that SLT as a first line therapy reduced the need for cataract and glaucoma surgery and that first-line therapy with SLT demonstrated less frequent progression to advanced stages of glaucoma when compared to topical intervention. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36122660/>

Transcleral SLT has recently received FDA approval and is undergoing the approval process in Canada.

### Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty (SLT)



Typical SLT Laser set-up for the optometrist and patient.

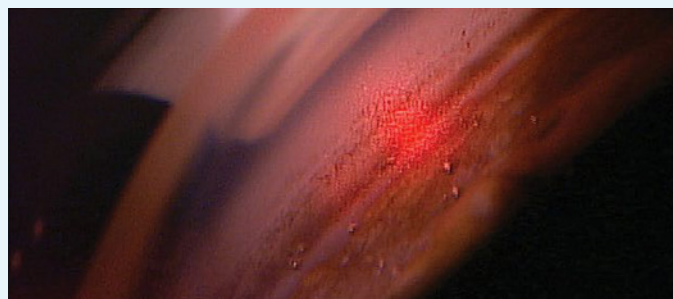


Photo of trabecular meshwork where low level laser energy is being applied.

*Images courtesy of NSU College of Optometry*

FACT SHEET

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT

[collegeofoptometrists.ab.ca](http://collegeofoptometrists.ab.ca)

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