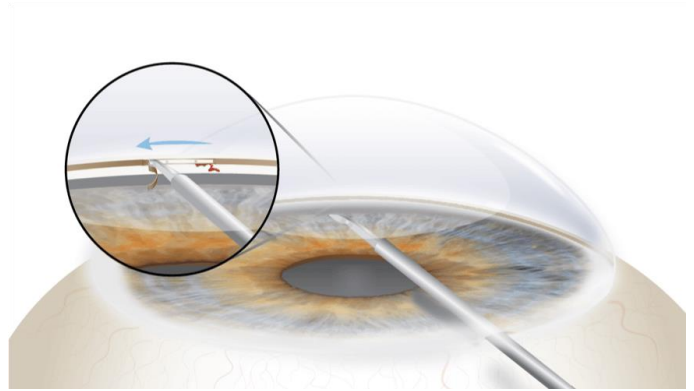


Goniotomy

What is the Goniotomy?

Goniotomy is a form of minimally invasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS). A small blade is used to remove a small section of the natural drain (trabecular meshwork) of your eye to create a new outflow channel, to help aqueous fluid (natural fluid of the eye) drain from your eye. This reduces the intra-ocular pressure of the eye (pressure inside the eye). This procedure can be done either alone or more commonly during cataract surgery.



Will the Goniotomy cure my glaucoma?

No. Goniotomy will not cure your glaucoma, neither will it reverse any damage already caused by glaucoma or bring back any lost vision. However, it might prevent your glaucoma from getting worse by lowering your eye pressure.

Is the Goniotomy suitable for everyone?

Goniotomy surgery is not suitable for all patients and is not suitable for all types of glaucoma. Dr Perumal will discuss and explain the suitability of goniotomy with you.

Before your operation

You should continue any eye drops and tablets for your glaucoma as prescribed until the time of your surgery, unless directed otherwise by us.

You will be asked to bring with you an up-to-date list of your current medications and a brief summary of your medical history, available from your GP (general practitioner) if you are unsure. Your general health and suitability for anaesthetic will be assessed. Any investigations, for example blood tests, will also be undertaken as appropriate.

During your operation

Goniotomy surgery takes only 5-10 minutes. It is often performed at the end of cataract surgery, but can also be done alone. Most people have the operation performed under a local anaesthetic, meaning that you are awake but your eye is numb so you will not feel anything.

After your operation

Immediately after your operation, your eye will be covered. Eye drops are not usually required in your operated eye until the day after surgery. Any eye drops that you use in your other eye **must** be continued as normal. The morning after your operation you can remove the dressing and gently bathe your eye. The eye drops you will need to use in your operated eye will be **different** from the drops that you used prior to your operation. Drops will need to be used for approximately 4 weeks after your operation. Any changes to your eye drops will be discussed with you each time you attend the clinic. If you are running out of the drops, you must obtain a repeat prescription from your doctor.

Post-operative visits

Goniotomy surgery should increase the drainage fluid from the eye and so lower your eye pressure. Your eye pressure can drop as quickly as 24 hours after surgery, but you will not feel any different. You will be reviewed in the eye clinic 1 day after your operation and then again 1 month later. It is very important that you attend all your clinic appointments and use your eye drops as prescribed.

Are there any complications?

Complications are minimal. A very small amount of bleeding inside the eye occurs during the operation but this resolves within a few days. In some patients, the goniotomy does not have a significant effect, and the effect of goniotomy does not last indefinitely. Inflammation is a common association following surgery which will be treated with your post operative eyedrops.

Will I still need to use my glaucoma eye drops?

Immediately after your operation your glaucoma eye drops to your **operated eye only** will change. You will be given a course of anti-inflammatory and antibiotic eye drops to use after your operation to prevent inflammation and infection.

Each patient is different, and the exact pressure result varies.

Does insurance cover the cost of surgery?

This depends on the cover by your insurance company. Most major insurance companies cover part or the whole cost including Southern Cross and NIB. If you are in doubt, consult your policy documents.