

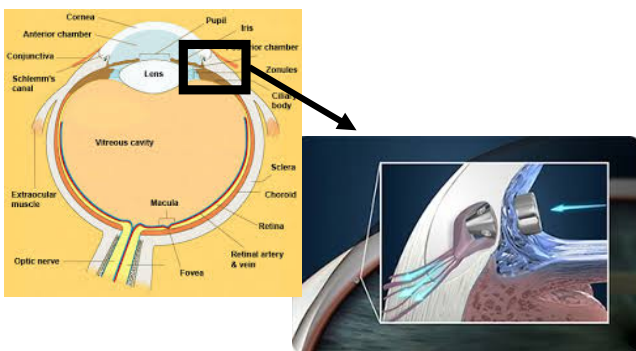
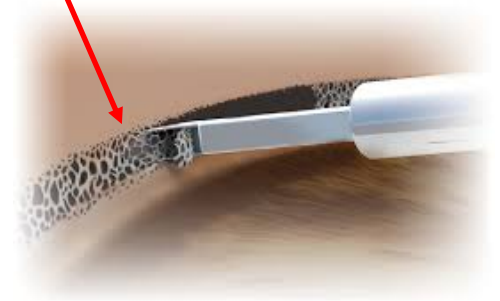
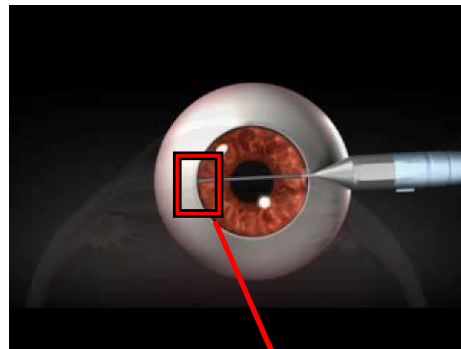
Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery:

What are minimally invasive glaucoma surgeries?

Minimally invasive glaucoma surgeries (MIGS) are procedures that are typically combined with cataract surgery. They are generally low risk procedures that do not have many of the risks of standard glaucoma surgery. They do not make a full thickness hole in the eye and so do not have the same risk of lowering the pressure too much or the lifelong risk of infection seen in standard glaucoma surgeries. As a trade-off, they are also much less effective at lowering eye pressure. A typical good result for a MIGS might reduce the number of drops needed for several years or give mild pressure reduction on current drops.

Goniotomy:

A goniotomy surgery can be done with cataract surgery or (rarely) can be done as a stand-alone procedure. This surgery removes a portion of the filtering tissue (trabecular meshwork) that overlies the drain from the eye. By removing this tissue, the resistance to fluid outflow is reduced and pressure can be lowered. The filtering tissue can bleed a little when removed and there is some risk of blood flowing into the eye after this filtering tissue is removed (highest in the first 1-2 weeks). Generally, having blood in the eye is not dangerous but makes the vision blurry. The risk of blood entering the eye can be reduced by keeping your head above the level of your heart (including sleeping on a couple pillows at night) for the first 2- weeks after surgery. There are multiple methods that can be used to perform goniotomy including Kahook Dual Blade, Omni and GATT.



iStent:

The iStent is an implant that is placed into the filtration system (trabecular meshwork) and provides a channel for fluid to go through, avoiding the higher resistance of the trabecular meshwork tissue and lowering intraocular pressure. The pressure reduction may be slightly lower than with goniotomy but the recovery from cataract combined with iStent is usually the same as recovery from stand alone cataract surgery.

Endocyclophotocoagulation:

This procedure uses a videocamera to visualize the muscle behind the iris (ciliary body) where fluid is produced in the eye and then burn it under direct visualization. This procedure reduces the amount of fluid made in the eye but burning in the ciliary body can produce significant inflammation, which can lead to light sensitivity and can cause swelling in the retina, which may make the vision blurrier.

