



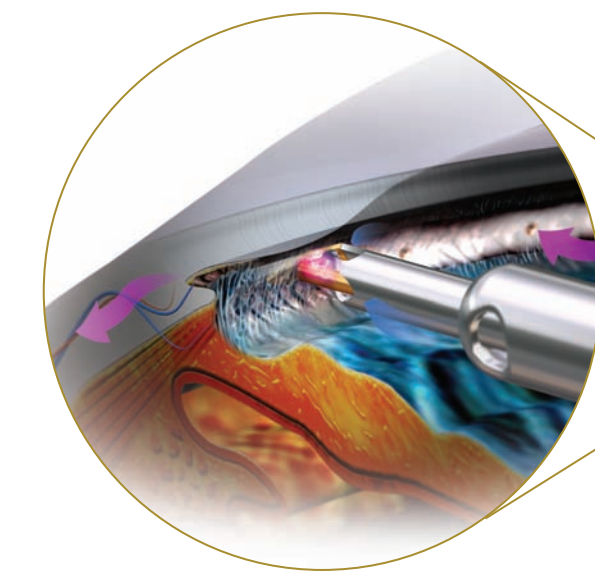
WINNING THE FIGHT AGAINST GLAUCOMA THROUGH

THE SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION

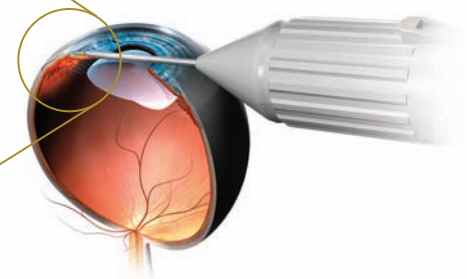
For most people with glaucoma the treatment is simple—putting drops of medicine in the eye to reduce pressure will help them from going blind. When medications do not lower the pressure enough, their only option is surgery. The usual procedure, called trabeculectomy, does not work for many patients. There are also complications that happen with this procedure.

Now, there are more options for people suffering from glaucoma who need surgery. At the University of California, Irvine, there is an exciting collaboration with a local company, Neomedix Corporation, in the development of a new technology called Trabectome.

Soheila Mirhashemi, PhD, CEO of Neomedix, explains, “Trabectome is a minimally invasive surgical technology that reestablishes the natural pathways of the eye without leaving any implant



1. A tiny incision is made
2. Diseased tissue is removed
3. The eye's natural fluid balance is restored



Artist illustration of Trabectome procedure

in the eye. It also supports the natural physiology and anatomy of the eye.”

The Trabectome was invented by George Baerveldt, MD, of The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute. The device is now helping to treat glaucoma and prevent vision loss in over 100 leading glaucoma centers across the country and around the world.

Donald Minckler, MD, Director of Glaucoma Services at UC Irvine says, “The Trabectome specifically addresses the part of the eye that increases pressure inside the eye for glaucoma patients. This whole project could only have happened so quickly at The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute.”



THE BLIND SIDES

A FACE-OFF AGAINST GLAUCOMA

John Harrington was playing hockey and started missing passes he used to easily get. He soon realized it was because he couldn't always see the puck.

Harrington was diagnosed with glaucoma and given drops to lower his eye pressure, but the drops weren't working. His doctors said that without surgery, he would eventually lose his sight.

His search for the best treatment led him to Donald Minckler, MD, at UC Irvine. “It's fantastic that I live here in Orange County and had an expert for my condition so close at hand,” says Harrington.

Harrington had lost some side vision from the glaucoma, which explained



Three years after his glaucoma surgery, John Harrington can play hockey again and coach his kids

why he kept missing the hockey puck. He needed treatment immediately to save his remaining sight, and Dr. Minckler had his back. “He put me at ease and explained everything in a way I could understand.”

Taking the Pressure Off

The cutting-edge procedure Minckler performed is called Trabectome, which helps to lower eye pressure. A few days after surgery, the pressure had greatly improved, to Harrington's relief.

Three years later, Harrington's eye pressure is still under control. “The gift of sight is something I hold precious, even more because I've lost some of it. After going through something like this, I look at things differently.

“I owe a lot to Dr. Minckler and UCI for giving me back my normal life,” says Harrington. “It's great to be able to play hockey again and coach my kids. Now when I miss the puck, I know it's because I'm getting older!”