

# The AquaFlow implant and procedure—what to expect.

The procedure to implant the AquaFlow device requires approximately 30 minutes from start to finish. In most cases, the patient is made comfortable with a mild sedative while anesthetics are used to numb the eye.

Occasionally, patients require additional sedation. Postoperatively, medications (anti-inflammatories and antibiotic eyedrops) are prescribed. A protective shield may also be worn for a short period of time.

A follow-up appointment is usually made for the day after surgery. Patients are most often able to return to their normal activities within 24 hours. Additional visits will be scheduled as recommended by your doctor.

**Ask your doctor to discuss your options with you today. AquaFlow may be just the thing to change your outlook.**



# AQUAFLOW™

# AQUAFLOW™

A Better Outlook.



STAAR Surgical  
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CAUTION: Federal (USA) law restricts these devices to sale by or on order of a physician.

**Indication:** The AquaFlow is indicated for the maintenance of a sub-scleral space following non-penetrating deep sclerectomy used to facilitate aqueous outflow for the reduction of intraocular pressure in patients with open-angle glaucoma where intraocular pressure remains uncontrolled while on maximally tolerated medical therapy.

Contact STAAR Surgical for complete prescribing information.

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Now there's a promising  
new option for  
glaucoma patients.



Glaucoma is often called the “sneak-thief of sight” because it slowly steals the sight of people affected by the disease. Until now, glaucoma treatment has been limited to a lifetime of eye drops or a high-risk surgical procedure.

The people of STAAR® Surgical are happy to bring you news of an exciting evolution in the treatment of glaucoma. Developed in Russia in the late 1980s, and enhanced in Switzerland\*, the AquaFlow™ Collagen Glaucoma Drainage Device is now approved for use in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The AquaFlow implant, when used in combination with a new non-penetrating surgical procedure, has been proven safe and effective in reducing the dangerously high intraocular pressure experienced by many people with glaucoma. In most cases, those who have had the AquaFlow implant and the new procedure have significantly decreased or eliminated their use of pressure-reducing medications.

The AquaFlow implant and procedure are intended for patients with open-angle glaucoma where intraocular pressure is uncontrolled while using maximally tolerated medical therapy.

Patients with other types of glaucoma or known allergies to specific collagen products may not be candidates.

A conversation with your eye care professional regarding your glaucoma and the treatment options available is essential before you make any decisions about which course of action is right for you.

## Glaucoma and its treatment options.

In the normal eye, fluid is constantly being produced and circulated to nourish the cells inside the eye. When the outflow of this fluid is restricted, or there is excessive fluid produced, pressure inside the eye increases.

\*STAAR Surgical recognizes PD Dr. med André Mermoud and the team of the Glaucoma Unit, Hôpital Ophtalmique Jules Gonin, University of Lausanne, for the refinement and long-term studies of the AquaFlow Collagen Glaucoma Drainage Device.

This can lead to a condition known as glaucoma. If undetected or untreated, the increased pressure can damage the optic nerve and eventually cause blindness.

Traditional glaucoma treatment is medication that is usually in the form of eyedrops. This course of therapy involves the self-administration of one or more eyedrop medications every day throughout one's lifetime.

There is no cure for glaucoma; therefore, patients usually require lifelong medical regimens to control their pressure. For some patients, difficulty in using eyedrops or side effects (ranging from those that affect the eyes such as stinging, burning, tearing, and blurred vision, to those that affect the whole body, including anxiety, dizziness, tremor, and others) may cause interruptions in therapy.

Sometimes, glaucoma may not respond to medication. In these cases, one of the following surgical options may be required.

*Argon Laser Trabeculectomy (ALT)* is a laser procedure designed to increase outflow of fluid by opening new drainage pathways. This procedure is relatively low risk but, over time, becomes ineffective. Recent data indicate that the eye does not respond well to re-treatment.†

*Trabeculectomy* is a surgical procedure in which the eye is penetrated to remove a

small piece of tissue, helping to improve drainage and reduce pressure. Although an effective option, trabeculectomy is a relatively high-risk procedure and often subject to complications.

*Valve* is a last-resort surgical treatment in which a tube is inserted into the eye to allow fluid to flow into an artificial external reservoir. This, too, is a high-risk procedure with complications.

*AquaFlow™ Collagen Glaucoma Drainage Device* is a tiny piece of collagen that is implanted under the white of the eye. It maintains a space created by your doctor to increase fluid outflow in order to reduce pressure within the eye. The AquaFlow implantation procedure is generally low risk and has fewer postoperative complications than penetrating surgical procedures.

Within 6 to 9 months, this implant slowly dissolves; however, the space it occupied remains, allowing fluid to drain from the eye to keep pressure low.

The AquaFlow procedure and implant is a non-penetrating surgery. Long-term results have been positive and, in many cases, the dependence upon medications has been eliminated or significantly reduced.

**AQUAFLOW™**

†Data on file.