

## Treatment of chronic glaucoma

- To treat glaucoma, the pressure inside the eye needs to be lowered. Eye drops can both reduce the amount of fluid produced and help drain fluid out of the eye. Sometimes laser treatment or surgery is also required to help drain fluid from the eye.
- Eye drops, which have to be put in regularly, are used at first. Never stop taking glaucoma drops unless your eye specialist tells you to.
- If drops do not control the eye pressure, you may need an operation called a trabeculectomy. This is done as a day-case procedure under local anaesthesia. The operation usually lasts 20–30 minutes.
- A small opening is made in the front of your eye, under the upper eyelid, to let fluid escape and lower the eye pressure. The fluid that flows out of your eye forms a small cyst, called a bleb, under the conjunctiva, the thin transparent tissue that covers the white of the eye. This fluid is completely separate from the tears. The fluid in the cyst then disappears into the bloodstream.
- Sometimes the opening made in the front of your eye scars over and pressure builds up again. You may need to use drops again, have scar tissue released while your eye is viewed on a slit lamp, or have another operation.
- Some patients may benefit from other operations, including insertion of a drainage tube into the eye to help fluid drain from the eye.

