

# Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS)

## Is my glaucoma cured? Will I need any further surgery?

There is no cure for glaucoma. Surgery is done to lower the eye pressure to reduce the risk of further visual loss.

MIGS offers a modest decrease in the eye pressure compared to conventional glaucoma surgery. It reduces the burden on glaucoma eye drops but it may not totally eliminate its use in some cases, and the effect may also wear off after a period of time.

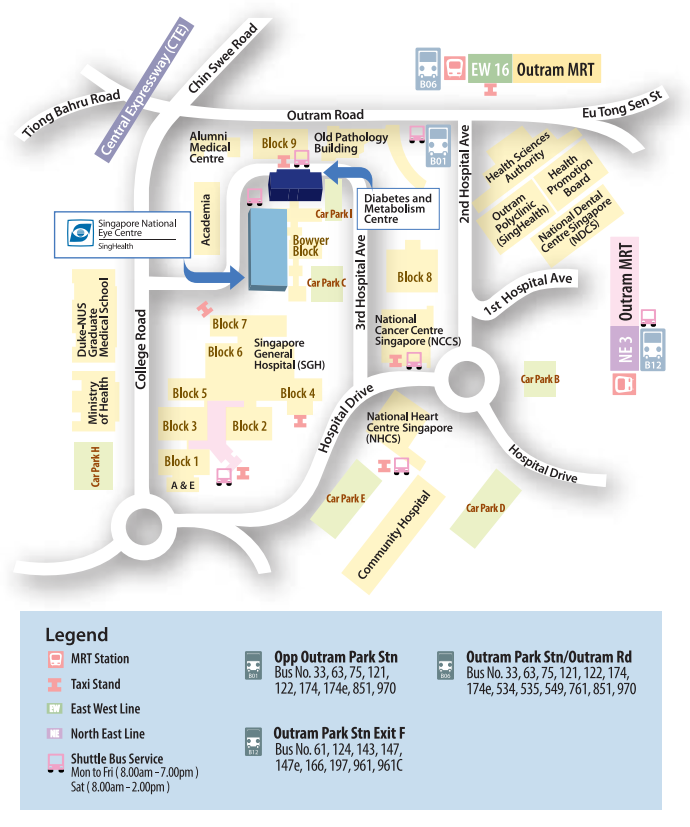
Some patients may need to have additional surgery performed if the eye pressure becomes inadequately controlled. This depends on many factors such as age of the patient, type and severity of the glaucoma.

MIGS is a group of relatively new surgical procedures. While they are tested and established therapies, long-term safety profile and efficacy data are not yet known and worldwide clinical trials are ongoing.

At SNEC, we strive to review our MIGS outcomes and together with careful patient selection, ensure a good safety profile and optimal surgical results for our patients.

Please consult your surgeon if you have any further queries about the surgery.

### LOCATION MAP



# A CLOSER LOOK: MINIMALLY INVASIVE GLAUCOMA SURGERY

MINIMALLY  
INVASIVE  
GLAUCOMA  
SURGERY

This patient information leaflet is a general guide to help patients understand specific eye conditions, treatment or tests. The information does not replace the need for individual advice from an ophthalmologist. Please consult with your ophthalmologist about your specific eye condition and/or concerns. The contents of this leaflet are not to be produced in any form without the prior permission of the Singapore National Eye Centre.

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# Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS)

## What is MIGS?

MIGS, or Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Surgery, is a group of procedures performed through small incisions — by inserting a micro-stent or creating a drainage to increase fluid outflow to lower the eye pressure (intraocular pressure). These procedures are less invasive, faster to perform, and safer than conventional surgical filtration procedures such as trabeculectomy and glaucoma drainage devices.

## Why do I need to undergo MIGS?

Your surgeon has considered the option of a MIGS procedure to be appropriate in the management of your glaucoma.

There may be other surgical options available and your surgeon will be able to explain to help you make an informed choice on your treatment.

MIGS procedures are normally combined with cataract surgery but can also be stand-alone procedures.

## What are the benefits of MIGS?

The benefits are:

- MIGS is less invasive, with a faster recovery than conventional glaucoma filtration surgery.
- Your glaucoma eye drops are usually stopped after the procedure, especially if you are currently taking only one or two eye drops for milder glaucoma. This is useful if you have problems such as intolerance to eye drops or difficulty using the eye drops correctly.
- It may be used to delay a conventional glaucoma procedure when you are taking the maximal amount of eye drops.

MIGS procedures will not cure your glaucoma, reverse any damage already caused by glaucoma, or bring back any lost vision.

## What are the risks associated with MIGS?

- **Severe sight-threatening complications like infection and bleeding**  
As with all surgeries, there is always a risk of infection and bleeding but these are rare and can be treated quickly. Quite commonly there may be some blood in the eye which is temporary and needs no intervention as the blood will clear by itself.
- **Stent / implant blockage / scarring**  
There could be a risk of the implant becoming blocked or coming out of position but these are rare. Occasionally you may need laser treatment or surgery to alleviate the situation.
- **Failure to control eye pressure**  
The implant may not be able to entirely eliminate the need for glaucoma eye drops; in some cases, it may only reduce the number of bottles of eye drops used. There may also be a loss of effect with time and you may require conventional glaucoma filtration surgery or laser treatment.

- **Low eye pressure**

This is transient if it happens and it usually resolves without intervention.

## What should I expect during and after the surgery?

The surgery is done as a day procedure and often combined with cataract surgery. Before the surgery, the surgeon will instill anaesthetic eye drops to numb the eye. Cataract surgery is usually performed first, followed by MIGS procedure (through the same incisions used for cataract surgery).

You will receive a prescription for eye drops after surgery, typically steroid (for treating inflammation) and antibiotic (for preventing infection) eye drops. It is important that you instill the eye drops as instructed.

After the surgery, you will be reviewed the next day and regularly then onwards. Your surgeon will assess your eye pressure and advise you on using the previous glaucoma eye drops in the operated eye.