

Introducing an Interventional Approach to Glaucoma

Dear Doctor,

We're reaching out to share our evolving perspective on glaucoma care. In our shared mission to restore and preserve sight, it's become increasingly clear that a more interventional approach is not just preferable—it's necessary.

Today, 90% of patients face challenges managing their glaucoma prescriptions, and nearly half discontinue their medications within just six months. As a result, many patients we believe to be under our care are, in reality, unprotected from progressive vision loss.

Our commitment to practicing Interventional Glaucoma (IG) reflects a shift toward procedural treatment as a first-line option, rather than defaulting to a "drops-only" strategy. We recognize that using eye drops can be inconvenient, difficult, and at times discouraging. By intervening earlier with proven procedures, we aim to reposition drops as a supplemental tool—not the cornerstone—of glaucoma care.

What is Interventional Glaucoma?

It is a proactive treatment approach that uses procedural pharmaceuticals, laser treatment, and other minimally invasive offerings to reduce intraocular eye pressure and slow its progression. It doesn't eliminate the need for eye drops, but instead redefines them as a bridge or supplemental therapy. Strong research indicates that interventional treatments are superior to drops when it comes to disease control, translating into less visual field loss, fewer future invasive surgeries, and better quality of life for patients.

By intervening earlier, we can stay ahead of the disease – a proactive, rather than reactive mindset. If you see that your patient has ocular hypertension or glaucoma – and you believe they need treatment – IG allows us to intervene, often in a non-invasive or minimally invasive way, controlling the disease, avoiding long term drop use, and allowing them to return to you for their ongoing primary eyecare.

To ensure your patients have access to the full range of treatment options, we do still recommend starting an eye drop and referring them for a timely intervention. Many options can be offered same day and bilaterally.

You will likely hear more about this approach in the coming weeks and months as we visit your practice, from the stage at our annual symposium, evening programs dedicated to education, and our doctor resource portal where you can access patient education tools, IG referral and post-op forms, podcasts on the topic and short videos from our providers sharing their approach to treatment.

If you have any questions, we encourage you to reach out!

Interventional Glaucoma is a team effort between your office and ours. Let's get proactive about intervention and push back against this progressive disease, together.

Sincerely,
The Doctors at Vance Thompson Vision

