



**FLORIDA EYE**  
*Microsurgical Institute, Inc.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Contact: Gwen Cohan  
Director of Marketing & PR  
(561) 736-5050 - office  
[gwen@fleyedocs.com](mailto:gwen@fleyedocs.com)  
[www.fleyedocs.com](http://www.fleyedocs.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

---

**January is National Glaucoma Awareness Month**

**See Your Eye Care Professional On A Regular Basis To Ensure Proper Eye Healthcare.  
Early Detection Is The Best Method To Ensure Healthy Vision.**

*December 27th, 2010, Boynton Beach, FL... Glaucoma is the leading cause of preventable blindness. Everyone, from infants to seniors is vulnerable. Over 4 million Americans and nearly 70 million people worldwide have glaucoma. Experts estimate that half of them don't even know they have it. Moreover, among African-American and Hispanic populations glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness. Combined with our aging population, we can see an epidemic of blindness looming if we don't raise awareness about the importance of regular eye examinations to preserve vision.*

Dr. Barry Schechter of Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute is one of the few doctors in Palm Beach County who performs SLT in the Institute's office in Boynton Beach. He has been performing the procedure for the past two years. According to Schechter, who is the Institute's Refractive Cataract Surgery, Glaucoma, Cornea & External Disease Specialist, SLT has become a common Glaucoma treatment in his practice for several reasons.

"Many of my patients are on multiple medications," Schechter explains, "and often, they simply forget to take one or all of them. Also, for some patients, cost is an issue. Some drugs may be too expensive, and some may not be covered by insurance." Schechter adds that some patients exhibit sensitivities to using multiple medications. "With Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty, or SLT, we are often able to reduce the number of medications or eliminate Glaucoma eye drops."

Another great advantage of SLT, "the laser procedure is done in the office, it takes about two minutes to complete, and is painless," says Schechter.

# # #

SLT utilizes a 'cold laser' that doesn't burn tissue so if the need arises, the procedure can be repeated in the future. Another positive of SLT over medications - "the effects last on average about five years, so people might be medication free for that long," says Dr. Schechter, adding that "within two - three weeks of having the procedure, a marked improvement in eye pressure is usually noted." Dr. Schechter recommends waiting two to three weeks between eyes if having laser treatment on both eyes.

"When someone comes to our office, we always explain every treatment available based on that particular patient's Glaucoma diagnosis. Some have no problem with the older, more traditional options - medications (eye drops), surgery - but more and more patients are opting, when possible, to have SLT," says Dr. Schechter.

"We've been doing this procedure for two years now and treated over a thousand patients," says Schechter. We have a 95% success rate with SLT." Schechter reports only one minor incident with SLT where a patient experienced minimal inflammation. "It was easily resolved with a topical treatment after two weeks. SLT is safe, effective and in my opinion an important treatment option available today for Open Angle Glaucoma patients."

For more information about glaucoma and available treatments such as SLT at Florida Eye please contact Gwen Cohan at [gwen@fleyedocs.com](mailto:gwen@fleyedocs.com), or visit [fleyedocs.com](http://fleyedocs.com), and [glaucoma.org](http://glaucoma.org).

*The Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute offers a full range of comprehensive ophthalmologic care, including routine eye care and examinations, pediatric eye care, dry eyes, advanced corneal, retinal and cataract procedures, laser treatments, glaucoma and diabetic procedures, ophthalmic plastics, orbital surgery and various other sophisticated treatments. With its own pediatric wing and fully accredited outpatient surgical center in Boynton Beach, the Institute has additional offices in Boca Raton, Wellington and Juno Beach.*

# # #



**Dr. Barry Schechter treats a patient with SLT.**