

ALT VS. SLT

	ALT	SLT
LASER SPECS	Hot laser. Power set at 600 mW for 0.1 second and increased in intensity until blanching or small bubble forms at site of photocoagulation.	Cold laser. Uses a frequency-doubled Q-switched Nd:YAG laser emitting at 532 nm, with pulse duration in the nanosecond range. Puts out one-hundredth the energy of the argon laser.
EFFECT ON MESHWORK AND ADJACENT CELLS	Heat creates scarred, nonfunctional tissue in the meshwork. Affects adjacent cells.	Confines damage to within the cell, thus preserving the meshwork's architecture. Specifically targets melanin pigment in trabecular meshwork cells. The melanin-laden cells receive the energy, while the nonpigmented cells are spared.
EFFECT ON IOP	Lowers IOP.*	Lowers IOP.*
TREATMENT PARAMETERS	Repeat applications not effective.	Possible that it may be repeated. Reportedly is useful in patients who already failed ALT.
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS	Argon laser has other applications.	Cost of \$59,000. Laser system can be used only for SLT.

* See chart on page 32.