

New Machine-Guided Laser System Provides Safer Treatment Options



The Navilas® Laser System 577+ at the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute is specifically useful in the treatment of diabetic macular edema, says Sami Uwaydat, M.D., ophthalmologist.

UAMS has acquired the Navilas® Laser System 577+ at the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute.

The system features a navigated, yellow 577 nm treatment laser and the option to perform tissue-friendly navigated microsecond-pulsed treatments. It is a retinal photocoagulator integrated with a digital fundus camera.

The laser can be used to destroy small areas of tissue in the retina. Its imaging and navigation functions allow the physician to capture images of the problem area and use them to configure the system so that it can self-guide the laser during the procedure.

“The breakthrough is that you can plan the treatment on a screen, and the machine will deliver the treatment itself,” said Sami Uwaydat, M.D., an ophthalmologist at the Jones Eye Institute. “It has significantly improved the safety and efficacy of treatments for patients. If the patient shifts or the eye moves during the treatment, the laser beam will move along with it or not fire if it’s pointed at the wrong target. It’s also a great teaching tool, as you can observe the treatment on the screen while it’s being completed.”

Uwaydat said the Navilas is specifically useful in the treatment of diabetic macular edema. Other indicated uses include proliferative diabetic retinopathy, sub-retinal neovascularization, central and branch retinal vein occlusion, lattice degeneration and retinal tears.

It can also be used for imaging – with capture, display, storage and manipulation capabilities – including color, fluorescein angiography and infrared imaging. It can also aid in the diagnosis and treatment of ocular pathology in the posterior segment of the eye.

To make a referral, call 501-686-5822. ■

PHYSICIAN PROFILE



J. Camilo Barreto, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Surgical Oncology

What inspired you to become a doctor?

I always liked the sciences and found medicine to be incredibly exciting, but initially thought I would be an engineer like my father and brother. I

did not realize that medicine was the path for me until later, when I took an objective look and asked myself what I really loved to do. I observed some successful doctors in their work, and the impact I saw them make really convinced me that I wanted to become a doctor as well.

What do you like most about your specialty?

The fact that you can cure a patient or extend their survival time or relieve disabling symptoms is extremely rewarding. I also love the practice of surgery and the technical aspects. Having a challenging case to figure out, being able to get a good outcome that helps the patient – those moments make it the best job you could ask for. Treatment of cancer is constantly changing, and this provides numerous opportunities for innovation and research.

What makes you unique among your peers?

I have very extensive training in complex GI procedures and also have training in minimally invasive surgery. I genuinely care about the well-being of my patients and I pay special attention to all details during the initial workup, treatment and follow-up.

Why did you come to UAMS?

A good friend of mine had been working here for a few years before me and he was very satisfied with his work. I submitted my application and UAMS provided a perfect setting for a practice in a tertiary care academic center, while giving me the opportunity to treat a wide variety of conditions within my specialty.

What are your clinical specialties?

General surgical oncology: pancreaticobiliary tumors, gastric cancer, GIST, adrenal tumors, neuroendocrine tumors, soft tissue sarcomas, melanoma and other skin cancers, hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy for pseudomyxoma peritonei and peritoneal surface malignancies.

What number can doctors use to make a referral to you?

Referral number: 501-296-1200

Office number: 501-686-5547

Clinic number: 501-686-8211

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