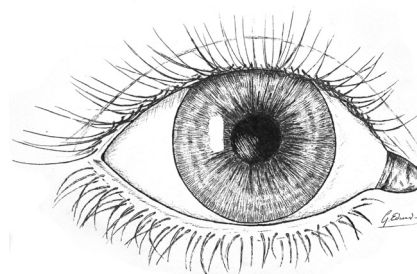


# YAG Capsulotomy Laser

Ophthalmology



This leaflet is for patients considering treatment for Laser YAG Capsulotomy treatment. It outlines what the procedure involves and its benefits, risks and side effects. If you would like further information then please ask any member of staff.

## What is a YAG Laser Treatment?

Laser treatment can be used to treat a number of eye conditions. A laser is a machine which gives out a highly concentrated beam of light. The laser is attached to a slit lamp microscope, similar to that used when you are examined in clinic.

A laser beam can be used to clear a central window in this capsule through which you will be able to see clearly again. This procedure is called a Capsulotomy, and this is done in hospital as a day case procedure in the outpatient's laser clinic by a doctor.

The name of the laser used is called a YAG laser, so the procedure is often known as a YAG Capsulotomy.

## Why do I need Laser treatment?

After a cataract surgery, it is common for a plastic lens to be placed in the eye, replacing the eye's own lens. Sometimes the transparent membrane, against which the plastic lens is placed, begins to go cloudy, making it difficult to see clearly.

This usually happens some weeks, months or even years after the cataract operation.

## What are the risks and side effects?

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

The treatment is generally safe. However complications may occur in a very small number of patients. These include:

- There is a small risk of raised pressure in the eye or aggravation of existing glaucoma. This can be treated with drops or tablets
- Inflammation in the eye
- A retinal tear or detachment. This would require further treatment
- Small risk of vision becoming worse
- Sometimes a second treatment may be required.

## How long shall I stay at the hospital?

The procedures are performed in the Outpatients department. You will be given the arrival time to allow preparation for your laser treatment. The laser treatments are booked in sessions of up to 5 or 6 patients. If you are a diabetic, it may be useful to bring your insulin / tablets and food in case your stay at the hospital is prolonged for any reason.

It is advisable to have food and drink prior to coming to the hospital.

## Consent

The choice about which treatment is best for you will be made together with your doctor. This will be based on the risks and benefits of the treatment and your individual circumstances.

The doctor will have explained the different treatment options to you and what will happen if you decide not to have any treatment at all.

Before you have the operation, you will be asked to sign a consent form. It is important that you understand the information given to you before you decide to have surgery. Consent form information is available in large print on request.

## On the day of your treatment:

- Do not drive to the appointment
- Your vision will be blurred for several hours after treatment
- Use all your usual eye drops including any glaucoma drops unless advised otherwise by your doctor
- Bring all your glasses with you.

## What does YAG laser treatment involve?

- First of all the nurse will test your vision
- Drops are put in the eye(s) to be treated to enlarge your pupil. These take about 15 to 20 minutes to work and will blur your vision
- The procedure will be explained to you and if you are happy to go ahead, you will be asked to sign a consent form. Feel free to ask any question if you are unsure about anything
- You will be seated at the laser machine called a slit lamp. The Doctor will then put anaesthetic drops into the eye to prevent any discomfort. A special contact lens will gently be placed on the surface of your eye. This is to minimize eye movements and helps focus the laser beam.

The treatment itself is usually not painful but some patients may find the bright light uncomfortable.

## During the laser treatment:

Laser capsulotomy is not a painful procedure.

The laser treatment starts when you are comfortable and takes between 5 to 10 minutes.

During this time you may hear some clicking sounds and see some red bright lights.

You will be asked to look at a particular area to keep your eye still.

## What should I expect after treatment?

Afterwards, it is sometimes necessary for more eye drops and tablets to be dispensed. This is done routinely to prevent inflammation in the eye, and to help protect against any short term increase of pressure in the eye.

You may find your vision is blurred for the next 3 to 4 hours. You will be unable to drive after laser treatment and you should make alternative arrangements for your return journey home.

Most patients notice an instant improvement in their vision once the dilating drops wear off, while others experience a gradual improvement over several days.

It is also usual to experience "floaters" for a few days after treatment. These floaters should settle down over a few days.

## Further appointments

Before you leave ask the doctor if you need another appointment. We may ask you to make up a routine follow up clinic appointment after your laser treatment.

## Contact the Eye department if you experience:

- An increase in floaters over the next few days (they should decrease)
- A sudden loss or reduction of vision
- Severe pain or redness of the eye.

## Where can I get more information?

We are here to help; please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any further information or advice.

If you have any personal access needs or require wheelchair access and wish to talk to a member of staff, please get in touch using our contact details.

### **Eye Referral Unit**

01902 695805

Monday to Friday between 08:00 until 17:00

Weekends 08:00 until 17:00

### **Minor Procedures Department**

01902 695831

Monday to Friday 08:30 until 17:00

**Outside of these hours, please attend the main Emergency Department or contact NHS Direct on telephone number 111.**

## English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

## Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

## Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

## Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

## Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。