

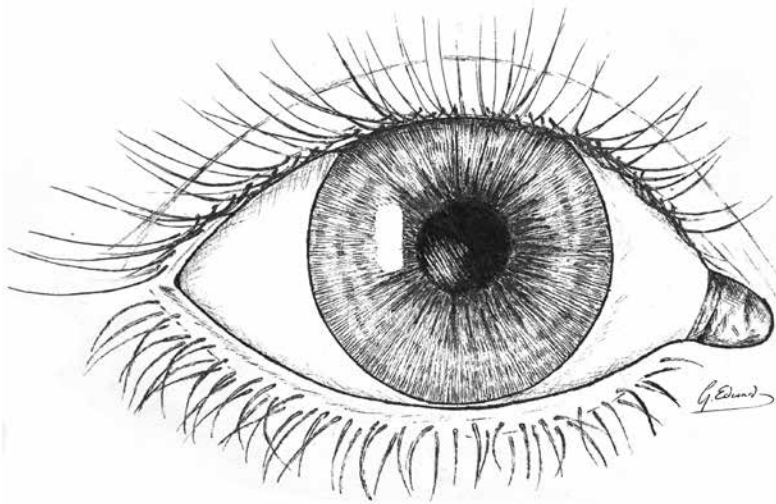
The Royal Wolverhampton



NHS Trust

Ophthalmology

# YAG Capsulotomy Laser



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 risk and side effects?

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 5/6 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.

## 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 15-20 minutes to work and will blur your vision.
- The procedure will be explained to you and once you are happy to go ahead, you will be asked to sign a consent form. Feel free to ask any questions 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 3-4 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 other 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 - Friday between 8:45 – 17:00 hrs

Weekends 0900 - 1700 hrs

### **Eye Emergency Department:**

01902 307999 Ext. 4486 / 4488 / 4489

Mon – Fri 0830 – 1830 hrs

Sat / Sun / Bank Holidays 0830 – 1700 hrs

**Minor Procedures Department**

01902 695831

Monday - Friday

8:30 - 16:30hrs

**Out of Hours NHS Direct: 111**

If you require this document in an alternative format e.g., larger print, different language etc., please inform one of the healthcare staff.

**Punjabi**

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਉਦਾਹਰਨ ਵਜੋਂ ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ, ਵੱਖਰੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਆਦਿ ਵਿੱਚ ਚਾਹੀਦਾ ਹੋਵੇ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਕਿਸੇ ਸਿਹਤਸੰਭਾਲ ਕਰਮਚਾਰੀ ਨੂੰ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕਰੋ।

**Polish**

Aby uzyskać niniejszy dokument w innym języku lub formacie, np. pisany dużą czcionką, itp., prosimy skontaktować się z przedstawicielem personelu medycznego.

**Russian**

Если данный документ требуется Вам в альтернативном формате, например крупным шрифтом, на другом языке и т.п., просьба сообщить об этом одному из сотрудников здравоохранения.

**Lithuanian**

Jeį pageidaujate šį dokumentą gauti kitu formatu, pvz., padidintu šriftu, išverstą į kitą kalbą ir t. t., praneškite apie tai sveikatos priežiūros darbuotojui.

**Kurdish**

ئەگەر ئێمە بەلگەنامەیە بە شێوازیکی دیکە دەخوازیت بۆ نمونە چاپی گەورەتر، زمانیکی دیکە هتد. تکلیه یەمکێک لێ کارمەندانی سەرپەرشتی تەندروستی ناگادار بکەرەوه.

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

- **Wash your hands with soap and warm water and dry thoroughly. Use hand gel, if provided, in care facilities.**
- **If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and vomiting stay at home and do not visit relatives that are vulnerable in hospital or in residential care. You will spread the illness.**
- **Keep the environment clean and safe. Let's work together to keep it that way. Prevention is better than cure.**

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