

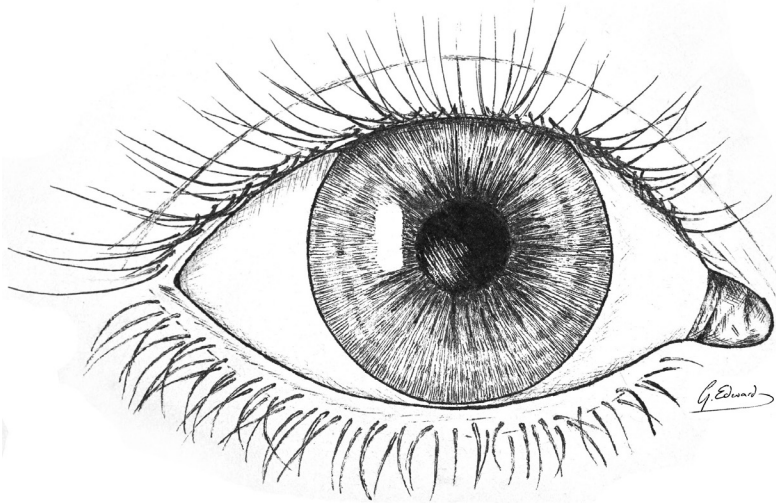
The Royal Wolverhampton



NHS Trust

Ophthalmology

YAG Laser Periphery Iridotomy



This leaflet is for patients considering treatment for a YAG Laser Peripheral Iridotomy. 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 YAG Laser Peripheral Iridotomy?

An Iridotomy is a small hole created with the laser beam in the outer part of the iris (coloured part of the eye). A Laser Peripheral Iridotomy is performed to treat or prevent a sudden rise in pressure inside the eye (acute glaucoma).

A sustained rise in pressure can cause a permanent loss of side and central vision. The Iridotomy allows fluid to circulate freely within the eye minimising the risk of a sight threatening pressure rise.

Why do I need this procedure?

To prevent an attack of acute glaucoma.

To treat an attack of acute glaucoma.

To treat chronic glaucoma where the drainage channel is very narrow.

This laser procedure is performed to preserve sight. It will not restore or improve the sight.

What are the risks and side effects?

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

- A rise in pressure which needs to be treated with drops and tablets before you can go home.
- Bleeding in front of the Iris, which can blur the vision until it clears.
- Inflammation inside the eye shortly after the treatment
- Aggravation of existing glaucoma and speeding up of cataract formation.
- Clouding of the cornea (window) of the eye.

Whilst one treatment is enough, we may recommend further laser treatment at a later date if the laser hole is not large enough.

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 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
- The nurse will put some eye drops in your eye(s) to make the pupil smaller in preparation for treatment
- 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 about anything that you are unsure about.

During the laser treatment

The treatment itself is usually not painful but some patients may feel slight discomfort as the laser is fired onto the sensitive tissue of the iris.

The laser will be delivered through a specially designed microscope you sit in front of. It is very similar to the slit lamp microscope you sit at in clinic to have your eye examined. 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 minimise eye movements and helps focus the laser beam

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?

You will be asked to wait for approximately 1 hour after your Iridotomy procedure treatment so that your intraocular pressure can be checked before you leave the department.

Your eye may become pink and sore and the vision is often disturbed for the rest of the day. For this reason patients are strongly advised not to drive home. Apart from driving, you can resume normal activities immediately. You will be prescribed additional medication for a few days to prevent inflammation and a rise in pressure.

You should continue to use all your anti-glaucoma medication unless specifically instructed otherwise.

Further Appointments

An appointment will be made for a check-up in the eye clinic shortly afterwards.

Contact the Eye Department if you experience:

- Pain that continues for more than a few hours, it may be that the pressure in your eye has risen.
- 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 ਵੱਡੇ ਫੁੱਟਰਿੰਗ ਵਾਲੇ ਵੱਡੇ 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 formie, 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. تکایە پیمکێک لە کارمەندانی سەرپەرشتی تەندروستی ناگادار بکەرەوە.

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.**

Designed & Produced by the Department of Clinical Illustration,
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