

Laser treatment (YAG capsulotomy)

Other formats

If you need this information in another format such as audio CD, Braille, large print, high contrast, British Sign Language or translated into another language, please contact the PALS desk on 01271 314090 or at rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net.

After cataract surgery, the bag (capsule) that holds your implant in place inside your eye can thicken and mist over causing your vision to blur.

This is known as capsule opacification. This is common after cataract surgery. A laser beam is 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 can be performed easily in the eye clinic.

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

On the day of your treatment

- Do not drive to the appointment
- Your vision will be blurred for several hours after the treatment
- Use all your usual eye drops
- Bring your distance glasses with you

What will happen just before the laser treatment?

- Your vision will be tested
- The procedure will be explained to you and once you are happy to go ahead, you will be asked to sign a consent form
- Drops are put in the eye to be treated to enlarge your pupil
- These will take about 20 minutes to work
- Feel free to ask about anything you are unsure about
- You will be seated at the laser machine - rather like the slit lamp used to examine your eyes in the eye clinic
- Anaesthetic drops are put in the eye to be treated to avoid any discomfort during the laser treatment

During the laser treatment

- A contact lens is placed on the front of the eye to keep the eye open and focus the laser beam. This will not be painful
- The laser treatment starts when you are comfortable, and takes between 5 and 10 minutes
- During this time you may hear some clicking sounds and see some red bright lights
- The contact lens is removed
- Further drops may be given

Remember

Your vision may be a little dazzled for a number of hours after the treatment. So remember not to drive until it clears.

Take all your eye drops as usual.

Complications of laser treatment

These are unusual.

1. The pressure in the eye can rise. This may be treated with drops or tablets.
2. Inflammation inside the eye. This is uncommon and responds rapidly to anti-inflammatory drops
3. A retinal tear or detachment can rarely occur in the following 3 months (3 in 100 patients may experience this)
4. Fluid can build up in the retina used for detailed vision causing a reduction in vision (2 in 100 patients may experience this)

Watch out for any problems after the laser treatment and report back to the eye department if you notice **flashing lights or floaters, decreasing vision, pain, and redness**. Contact telephone numbers are below.

Contact us if you notice

- Flashing lights
- Recent onset of floaters
- Reduced vision
- Pain
- Redness

The contact telephone numbers

Barnstaple Eye Clinic

01271 322467

Monday to Thursday, 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Friday, 8:30 am – 1 pm

Night time and weekends

01271 322577

Ask to speak to the eye doctor on call

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email rduh.pals-northern@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

Tell us about your experience of our services. Share your feedback on the Care Opinion website www.careopinion.org.uk.

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