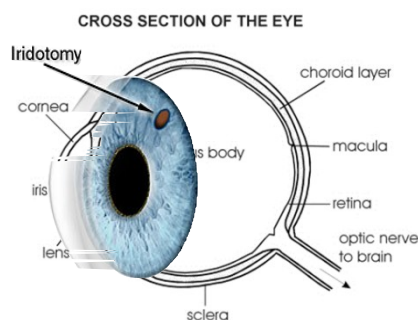


## Laser Peripheral Iridotomy (LPI) Information for patients

### What is LPI?

- Laser Peripheral Iridotomy (LPI) is a clinic-based procedure which aims to minimise the risk of developing a type of glaucoma called Angle Closure Glaucoma (also called Narrow Angle Glaucoma). The laser makes a tiny hole in the coloured part of the eye (the iris). The hole is usually invisible to the naked eye.
- A narrow drainage system within the eye can result in a build-up of the fluid and lead to high pressure in the eye. This usually happens gradually but can sometimes happen suddenly: either type of Angle Closure Glaucoma could do permanent damage to the eyesight. For people who are at significant risk of developing Angle Closure Glaucoma, the LPI laser is usually a good option to open the narrow angle, and reduce the risk of glaucoma.



<http://www.glaucoma.org/treatment/laser-iridotomy-and-narrow-angles.php>

### What will happen on the day of the procedure?

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- An anaesthetic drop will be instilled into your eye(s) to numb the surface. The eye pressure will be checked.
- Eye pressure controlling drops are usually used before the laser treatment.
- Your vision may be smoky or foggy immediately after the procedure but this usually clears within a day or two.
- Please do not drive on the day of your treatment and we do not recommend driving until your vision is clear.
- We would usually check the eye again, around an hour or so after the laser. If the eye pressure goes up, we may want you to wait until it is coming down again, before sending you home.
- After the laser treatment you will usually have steroid eye drops prescribed – usually for about 10 days to prevent any inflammation. You may need additional drops.

- You might or might not need a follow-up appointment.

### **Are there any alternatives to LPI?**

- Occasionally, a cataract operation will need to be considered as an alternative to LPI if your eyesight is reducing due to cataract in association with narrow drainage angles or the cataract formation is the reason for the narrowing of the drainage angles. Your eye specialist will only recommend LPI if they feel that 'doing nothing' has a higher risk of you developing problems with high eye pressure

### **Risks associated with the laser:**

- A rise in intraocular (eye) pressure, usually temporary, rarely requiring surgery.
- Inflammation in the eye following the procedure.
- Temporary redness of the eyes.
- Discomfort during the laser procedure.
- A mini bleed may occur at the site of the laser treatment during the procedure. This usually stops within 30 seconds with gentle pressure on the eye applied by the clinician performing the procedure
- The laser may, in rare cases, result in a slight change in your glasses prescription so please do not buy any new glasses for a few weeks after the laser treatment.
- Due to the fact that the laser treatment will create a tiny hole in the iris, in some cases some patients may experience some glare, a line of light, shadowing or double vision. This usually settles spontaneously after a few months and causes no further problems. However, in rare cases it does not settle: if this happens, there are various treatment options, such as a tiny 'tattoo' to cover the area.
- On rare occasions the laser procedure may need to be repeated if it is not effective.
- Loss of vision as a result of the laser procedure – this is extremely rare.
- A cataract operation might be needed if further narrowing of the drainage angles due to progressive enlargement of the lens is noted.
- Occasionally a different type of laser, Argon Laser Iridoplasty or cataract operation might be suggested as the definitive treatment

### **Contact Details**

If you experience any problems following the LPI treatment please contact The Eye Clinic through the NNUH switchboard on **01603 286286**.

