

## YAG Laser Capsulotomy Patient Information Sheet

Cataract is the name given to the natural lens inside the eye, which has become foggy. It is often removed with an operation and is usually replaced with an implant (artificial lens).

There is a natural sack (capsule) around the cataract, the back part of which is left behind during the operation to support the new implant. Occasionally this capsule can become thickened weeks or years after the operation; if this happens your eyesight can become worse.

### Purpose of the laser treatment

The treatment is to create a hole in the capsule with a laser beam. This allows the light to enter the eye more readily and improve your eyesight.

### What will happen in the Eye Clinic?

1. Laser treatment is performed by an eye specialist (ophthalmologist or optometrist) in the outpatient department. You should continue to take your regular medication and diet before and after the treatment.
2. After your vision is measured, eye drops will be put in the eye to enlarge the pupil and you may have drops to prevent the possibility of a rise in eye pressure.
3. You will be seated in front of the laser. Local anaesthetic drops will be placed in the eye so that you do not feel uncomfortable when the eye specialist inserts a special contact lens to focus the laser beam.
4. The laser treatment may take up to 10 minutes. The laser itself is completely painless but it is very important that you keep your head still during the treatment to avoid damage to other parts of the eye.

### What happens after?

1. The laser capsulotomy itself does not require any eye drops normally, however, occasionally after laser treatment, you may be asked to put drops into the eye to prevent any inflammation.
2. Often a follow up appointment is not necessary, but on occasions we ask some patients to return to the department for further visit.
3. **You must not drive home after this treatment**, and therefore we ask you if someone can accompany you as your vision will be reduced because of the eye drops placed in the eye. We advise you to bring sunglasses to wear as you may be a little light sensitive.
4. You are likely to experience floaters (seeing objects in the field of vision) after the laser treatment.
5. Normally, we expect your vision to improve shortly after the laser. You should contact us on the telephone number below if your eye is painful or the vision is becoming more blurred.
6. You can also make an appointment to see your optician 4 weeks after the laser.

Laser treatment is safe but there is a small risk of:

- Inflammation and/or a pressure rise in the eye.
- Swelling of the retina (cystoid macular oedema) causing the eyesight to become temporarily worse.
- Damaging adjacent structures in the eye such as the implant (artificial lens).
- Possible small increased chance of retinal detachment in the future (over a period of years) especially if you are shortsighted. In most cases this will start with an increase in floaters associated with flashing lights.

If you have any questions or worries, please contact the Eye Clinic on: 01603 288066  
Monday to Friday 8.30 – 17.00

