



## YAG Laser Capsulotomy

The posterior capsule is the fine transparent membrane behind your natural lens which we leave in the eye to support the artificial lens implant during a cataract operation.

In about 1 in 10 patients, the transparent membrane becomes cloudy after cataract surgery, causing a gradual reduction in vision. This can occur months to years after surgery.

The purpose of laser treatment (capsulotomy) is to create an opening in the cloudy membrane in order to restore vision.

### **Before Treatment you must Provide Consent:**

- Before agreeing to undergo laser treatment you will need to sign a consent form signifying that you understand the risks and benefits of the procedure
- We encourage you to ask any questions which may arise before signing the consent form.
- We are happy to provide you with a copy of the consent for if you wish.

### **Intended benefits of Laser Capsulotomy:**

- Improved Eyesight

As with any procedure, laser treatment has risks. An improvement in eyesight cannot be guaranteed. Serious complications are however, rare.

### **The main risks of Laser Capsulotomy are:**

- Floaters- Common after the procedure and often settle within days. Occasionally, these may persist and become permanent.
- Retinal Detachment- the inner lining of the eye (retina) detaches, causing reduced or complete sight loss if untreated.
- Macular Oedema- A swollen retina causes blurred vision. This can be treated but may take several weeks for sight to improve.
- Worsening of Glaucoma- Raised pressure in the eye that can usually be treated medically.
- Lens Damage- Rarely, the lens may be damaged by the laser and cause visual problems.
- Very rarely, additional medical treatment may be required after treatment to obtain the best vision.

## The Procedure and what to expect:

- Your vision will be checked, so please bring your distance glasses with you.
- Drops to dilate your pupil will be put into one or both of your eyes which will blur your vision for several hours.
- You will not be able to drive home after the drops, so please bring a companion or make suitable transport arrangements.
- The procedure is performed with the laser machine connected to a normal slit lamp (microscope).
- Anaesthetic and sometimes pressure-lowering eye drops are applied.
- A contact lens is placed on the eye to focus the laser beam and keep the eye open.
- The procedure lasts approximately 5-10 minutes, during which time you will hear beeping noises and experience bright lights. There is minimal discomfort, if any at all.

## After your Treatment:

- Your vision will be blurred after the treatment, but should improve over the following hours.
- You may notice floaters, but these tend to settle within the first two weeks.
- If you experience a sudden shower of floaters, flashes of light in the eye or the feeling of a curtain coming over your vision you should contact Community Eyecare or visit your optician as this may indicate a retinal detachment.
- You should also get in touch if you experience severe pain or loss of vision after the laser treatment.
- Certain patients will require follow-up appointments in the outpatient clinic. Before you leave, the laser operator will advise you whether another appointment is needed.
- You may resume driving the following day.
- You may visit the optician a week after your treatment to check the laser procedure if your glasses need changing.



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