



Information for
patients and
carers

Laser Capsulotomy Treatment

Why do I need laser treatment?

During your cataract operation your natural lens was removed from its capsule and replaced by an artificial lens. Following this operation, the capsule has thickened, causing your vision to become blurred. The laser makes a hole in the capsule and allows the light back into your eye, clearing your vision. You must not drive after this procedure, please make arrangements to get to and from the hospital.

What happens in the laser clinic?

When you arrive, a nurse will check your vision, explain briefly what the treatment involves and instil eye drops to dilate your pupil. These drops will make your vision blurred for several hours and may sting for a few seconds.

A doctor or nurse practitioner will see you and explain in more detail about the procedure and ask you to sign a consent form, please ask any questions you have before you sign.

The procedure will be undertaken by either a doctor or ophthalmic nurse practitioner.

Prior to the treatment, a nurse will seat you comfortably at the laser machine and instil local anaesthetic drops to numb your eye, these may sting slightly. The doctor or nurse practitioner may use a type of contact lens to focus the laser beam accurately onto the lens capsule; this also prevents you from blinking whilst treatment is in progress. You may feel a tingling or knocking sensation in your eye, but this should not be painful. It is important to keep as still as possible during the procedure.

How long does this take?

The treatment itself takes about five minutes per eye; however, the overall clinic visit may last one to two hours.

Are there any side effects or risks?

Following your treatment, you may find that you feel a little dazzled, as the laser light is very bright. It is good idea to bring sunglasses with you to use afterwards.

Laser capsulotomy treatment can occasionally cause raised pressure or inflammation in the eye, damage to the artificial lens or fluid build-up at the back of the eye and in less than 1 in 200 cases retinal detachment.

Further treatment may be required for any complications.

You may be prescribed some eye drops and/or tablets to use for a short time after treatment to prevent inflammation and a rise in eye pressure.

This treatment is usually successful in improving your vision, if this is not the case, it may mean that you have an additional problem at the back of your eye.

Occasionally the procedure may have to be repeated at another time if the opening made in the capsule is inadequate

What about my medicines?

You can eat, drink, and take your tablets/injections/eye drops, as you would normally do. If you are diabetic, you should be sure to have your meals and medications as normal and bring a snack with you in case the clinic is very busy and there are delays.

What happens afterwards?

The blurring caused by the eye drops will settle back to normal within about six hours as your pupil returns to its usual size.

You may experience some floaters after your treatment; this is normal and should subside within 3-4 days.

If you experience any of the following signs or symptoms, it is important to contact the hospital without delay on the number below:

- Pain in or around the eye
- Central blurring of vision
- Reduction of vision
- Sudden onset of flashing lights followed by a shower of floaters
- A dark shadow or curtain-like effect in your vision
- Irritation or discomfort of the eye

Contact details

If you experience any problems, such as sudden loss of vision or pain, contact the number below:

Ophthalmology telephone triage service:

01257 245346

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm

If you feel that your eye condition needs an urgent assessment outside of these hours, please attend the nearest Emergency Department.

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.accessable.co.uk

All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

Gujarati:

આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયતા જોઈતી હોય તો કૃપા કરીને પૂછો. આ માહિતી મોટા છપાણામાં અને અન્ય ભાષામાં ઉપલબ્ધ કરી શકાય છે.

Romanian:

Vă rugăm să întrebați dacă aveți nevoie de ajutor pentru înțelegerea acestor informații. Aceste informații pot fi puse la dispoziție în format mare și în alte limbi.”

Polish:

Poinformuj nas, jeśli potrzebna jest ci pomoc w zrozumieniu tych informacji. Informacje te można również udostępnić dużym drukiem oraz w innych językach

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਸਮਝਣ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮਦਦ ਲੈਣੀ ਚਾਹੋਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਪੁੱਛੋ। ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਵੱਡੇ ਪ੍ਰਿੰਟ ਅਤੇ ਹੋਰਨਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਮੁਹੱਈਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ।

Urdu:

دو سر ی زبانوں او ر بڑی اگر آپ کو ہی معلومات سمجھنے کے لیے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو یی چھپا یں ییہ ابی دست بو یسکت ہے برا ئے مہر یان پو ے یچھہ ی۔ معلومات

Arabic:

مطبوعه بأ حروف كبير ة و بلغات إذا كنت تر يد مساعده في فهم هذه لمعلومات يُر جى أن تطلب أخرى يملكن تو فسير هذه المعلوما ت

Department: Ophthalmology

Division: Surgery

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