

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, sometimes the capsule may become thickened, and this may cause:

- Blurry or misty vision
- Glare or haloes around lights
- Difficulty reading or driving

A special type of laser called YAG laser capsulotomy is used to create a small opening in the capsule and allows the light back into your eye, clearing your vision.

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.

You will not be able to drive home after the treatment, so please arrange transport.

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?

YAG capsulotomy is very safe. However, possible (rare) complications can occur following the treatment, such as 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.

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.

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

www.patient.co.uk

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

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This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

patientexperienceandinvolve@LTHTR.nhs.uk

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