

## LASER CAPSULOTOMY

### PROCEDURE INFORMATION SHEET

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#### ABOUT THE PROCEDURE

A laser capsulotomy is a procedure to treat Posterior Capsular Opacification (PCO) and improve your vision after cataract surgery.

During your cataract operation, the natural lens inside your eye that had become cloudy was removed. A new lens implant was put inside the lens membrane or capsule in your eye.

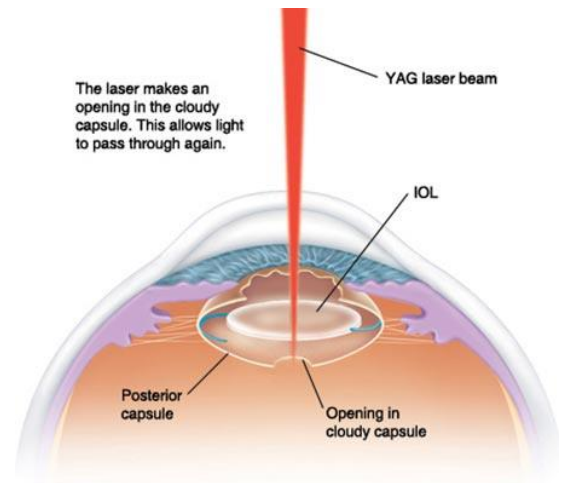
In some patients, the capsule thickens after surgery and becomes cloudy or opaque. This interferes with the light reaching the back of the eye. When this happens, your sight becomes misty, and you may get glare in bright light or from lights at night-time. Capsule thickening can happen in the months after your cataract operation, but more commonly occurs about two years after surgery.

In a laser capsulotomy, the doctor uses a special lens to apply a laser beam to the capsule. This creates a small hole in the centre of the capsule, which lets light through.

Laser capsulotomy is the only way to treat PCO.

#### COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

A laser capsulotomy is a simple, commonly performed in-office procedure and is very safe. It should not be confused with lasers used for corrective eye surgery like Lasik. Our YAG laser targets only the opacity behind our lens implant.



#### WHAT TO EXPECT

Many people are concerned about possible pain and side effects of laser capsulotomy. The procedure is nearly painless.

Your eye is anesthetized with numbing eye drops prior to the procedure. When you are called into the laser treatment room, you will be seated in an upright position. The doctor performs the procedure with the help of a slit lamp like the one used in the exam rooms to look at your eyes during routine visits. A small lens is placed on the surface of the eye to help focus the laser.

During the laser procedure, you may feel a sensation that something happened, or you may feel nothing at all. You may expect to hear the sound of the laser, but the procedure is very quick.

## YOUR APPOINTMENT

You should allow approximately **1 hour** for your appointment. This includes registration, diagnostic testing, the administration of eye drops, and if needed be a discussion with your ophthalmologist.

## RETREATMENT

Occasionally the opening made by the laser beam is incomplete, or not big enough. This will be detected either after your treatment, or on your follow-up visit. If this is the case, it will be necessary to repeat the treatment.

## POTENTIAL RISKS

Although extremely rare, some patients can get a build-up of fluid in the macula, the part of the eye responsible for detailed central vision. This build-up of fluid is called macular edema (swelling), which causes blurring or distortion of vision. This is a rare complication.

Another extremely rare complication is retinal detachment, when the fine light sensitive membrane at the back of the eye can come away from the wall of the eye.

## AFTER YOUR PROCEDURE

After the procedure you should expect that your vision may be temporarily blurry. Eye drops used to dilate your eye for the procedure can also blur your vision or cause light sensitivity.

Floaters after laser treatment are very common and usually go away after a few days.

Elevated eye pressure is a very uncommon side effect that occurs soon after the capsulotomy is performed, if it occurs it is very short-lived.

Most people do well after laser capsulotomy and do not experience significant side effects.

## RESTRICTIONS

Please keep your activities light (no lifting and straining) for the first 3 days.

You may be asked to use anti-inflammatory eye drops for a week after the procedure.

## YOUR NEXT VISIT

We will schedule you for a routine appointment approximately 1 month after your procedure.

## TEMPORARY SIDE EFFECTS

You may experience the following symptoms **temporarily** after your procedure.

Blurred Vision / Light Sensitivity / Redness  
Minor Discomfort / A Few Floaters

**They will resolve in ~24-72 hours.**

## WHEN TO SEEK CARE

If you have any of the following more concerning symptoms, **call us immediately** or proceed to the nearest outpatients to be assessed by the ophthalmologist on call:

Loss of Vision / Flashing Lights /  
Increased Redness /  
Excessive Pain or Sensitivity /  
Large Sudden Onset of Floaters