

# YAG laser capsulotomy

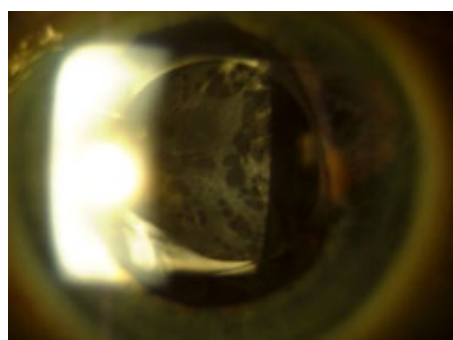
**This leaflet is for patients considering a YAG laser capsulotomy. It outlines what the procedure involves and its benefits, risks and side effects. If you would like further information then please ask any member of staff.**

## What is a YAG laser capsulotomy?

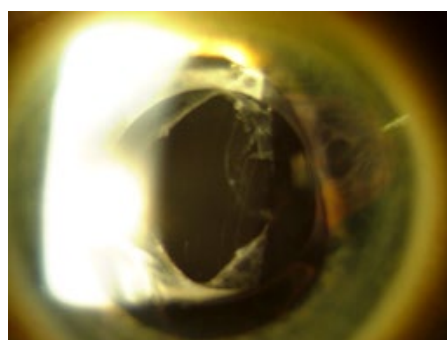
A YAG capsulotomy is a non-invasive laser procedure carried out to improve blurred vision and reduce the glare experience.

## Why do I need this procedure?

Once your cataract is removed a thin membrane (capsule) is left in place, in order to hold the implanted intraocular lens. Sometimes, the capsule becomes cloudy over time and causes glare and reduction of vision. This may happen months or years after your operation, in about 30-50% of patients.



*Before laser treatment*



*After laser treatment*

## What does the treatment involve?

YAG capsulotomy is an outpatient procedure and takes about 15 minutes to perform and involves very little discomfort. Dilating drops (to make your pupil larger) are put in your eye(s) and the laser is used to create an opening in the centre of the cloudy capsule to clear the blurred vision. You may also be given further drops during the treatment and in some cases to continue at home for a short period.

## Are there any risks?

The treatment is generally safe. However, complications may occur in a very small numbers of patients. These include inflammation inside the eye, increase in eye pressure or aggravation of existing glaucoma, movement of the lens implant and rarely, macular oedema (swelling in the centre of the retina) retinal hole or retinal detachment.

## Is there an alternative treatment for a cloudy capsule?

Your eye specialist is happy to discuss and outline any alternative treatments available.

## What should I expect after treatment?

**As a general precaution we advise patients not drive after this procedure due to the dilating drops. Please ensure you make arrangements for transport home.**

Most patients notice an instant improvement in their vision once the dilating drops wear off, while others experience a gradual improvement over several days. It is normal to experience floaters (black spots moving around) after treatment. These floaters should settle down over a few days.

## Follow-up

We do not normally give a routine follow-up appointment. However, **contact the eye department immediately** if you experience:

- An increase in floaters over the next few days (they should decrease).
- A sudden reduction or loss of vision.
- Severe pain or redness of the eye.

If you have got a minor eye problem, please seek advice from your GP, optician or pharmacist. If you think your problem might be urgent, please attend Eye Casualty.

## Contact us

Eye Casualty (Reading):	Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm; Sat & Sun & bank holidays 9am-12.30pm; Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
Eye Casualty: Prince Charles Eye Unit (Windsor):	Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm; Sat 9am-12.30pm; Closed Sun & bank holidays.
Dorrell Ward (Reading):	0118 322 7172 (24 hours a day)
Eye Day Unit (Reading):	0118 322 7123 (Mon-Fri 7am to 6pm)
Eye Day Unit (PCEU Windsor)	01753 636496 Mon-Fri 7am to 6pm)

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**Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.**

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