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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board

Patient Information Laser Treatment (Yag-Capsulotomy)

Eye Unit

This leaflet has been prepared to help you understand more about your laser treatment, and what to expect at your laser appointment.

Why am I having Yag Laser Capsulotomy?

During cataract surgery the doctor removes the cataract and places a plastic lens within the eye which rests upon a capsule. This capsule is normally clear like a glass window. In a small number of patients the capsule thickens, and becomes a little opaque, like a frosted glass window. This stops the light reaching the back of the eye. If this happens, your sight may become misty.

Capsule thickening can happen at any time after your cataract operation from a few months to years. The capsule thickening does not damage the eye in any way; it merely makes the sight fuzzy. You are having the Yag laser capsulotomy in order to restore your vision to how it was after the cataract operation.

What does the treatment involve?

The treatment is carried out in the eye clinic. Laser treatment offers important advantages as eye operations can often be avoided. The laser is used for several different eye conditions, and in most procedures does not cause discomfort or pain. It consists of a beam of light aimed at the specific area of the eye to be treated.

What happens on the day of the procedure?

- When you arrive at the clinic your vision will be assessed and drops may be put into your eye(s). These may be to dilate the pupils and to help with the treatment.
- The doctor will explain why you are having laser treatment, if you have not been told at an earlier appointment. You will be asked to sign a consent form.
- You will be taken into the laser room, where you will be sat at a machine with a chin and headrest.
- The doctor may put other drops to numb the front of the eye before a special contact lens is placed on it. The laser treatment will then be given and you will hear a clicking sound.
- After the laser treatment, it is advisable for you to sit for about 5-10 minutes to recover.

- You may be prescribed some eye drops or tablets for a short while, to protect the eye against any short-term increase in pressure in the eye.
- You will also be given a follow-up appointment.

Is Yag Laser Capsulotomy safe?

Yag laser capsulotomy is the safest and only non invasive technique for managing posterior capsular thickening. Uncommon potentially sight threatening effects on susceptible eye (<1%) are retinal detachment, glaucoma and inflammations (uveitits or cystoid macular oedema).

Important notes

Do not drive to this appointment. Dilating drops can last for several hours, causing the vision to be blurred.

It is advisable to bring another adult with you.

It is very important to keep your follow-up appointment.

If you are unable to attend for your laser treatment, please let us know as soon as possible. There is a waiting list and we will be able to use your appointment for someone else.

If you have any concerns about your eye when you are at home, please ring:-

Eye Clinic on:- Tel. No:- 01633 – 656268
8:30am – 5.00pm - Monday – Friday

Or

Ophthalmology doctor on call via the switchboard

**“This document is available in Welsh /
Mae’r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg”.**