

Patient Information

YAG Laser Peripheral Iridotomy (YAG PI) Eye Clinic

What is YAG PI and why do I need it?

Some people with small eyes / certain changes within the eyes – have shallow cavities and narrow draining channels, which can close up (**angle closure**) putting them at risk of a rise in the eye pressure (**glaucoma**) and loss of vision. The changes affect both eyes, and can present as – **Acute** (sudden), **Chronic** (gradual), or mixed presentation.

Laser PI is used to prevent the angle closure glaucoma, or to prevent a recurrent attack in patients who have had an acute attack. Treatment will be needed to both eyes.

How does YAG PI work?

- The draining channels are present at the junction/angle of the Iris (coloured muscle in the eye) and the cornea (clear window).
- The laser aims to make 1-2 holes in the periphery of the Iris and this allows a narrow angle – to open up slightly and lowers the risk of glaucoma.

The Laser will not improve your vision. If you have already lost vision from glaucoma, that loss is permanent. The treatment is to prevent any worsening of this loss.

As some of the changes in your eyes are permanent and cannot be reversed (small eyes), the risk of glaucoma cannot be completely eliminated. In addition, a developing cataract with age can worsen a shallow cavity and cause the pressure to rise.

For this reason you will need to be monitored by your optician life-long.

What can I expect?

- Yag PI is an **Out-Patient procedure** taking approximately 5-10 minutes/eye
- **Do not drive to the clinic. Bring someone with you.**
- Your vision is assessed and documented. **Bring your distance glasses.**
- You will have some drops put into both eyes to make your pupils small. This may give you a **headache** – very common, but usually wears off in a few hours.
- You will be called in, the procedure explained and asked to sign the consent form.
- **If you are anxious, you can ask a relative/friend/Nurse to come in with you.**

Treatment procedure

- You will have some anaesthetic drops and glaucoma drops to both eyes.
- The doctor will get the laser machine ready and position you on the machine. You must keep this position for the duration of the laser. **Make sure you are comfortable before we start the procedure.**
- The doctor puts a special contact lens gently on the surface of your eye. This is to stabilize your eye, prevent you blinking and magnify the area of treatment.
- The laser is not painful, you will hear multiple clicking sounds and see bright lights. Try not to react to these.
- We usually make 1-2 holes/eye on the iris muscle. These are usually placed at the top part of the eye which is partly covered by your upper eye-lid.
- You will have treatment to both eyes (one at a time) on the same day.

After Treatment

- You may be dazzled by the light and your vision may be slightly blurred temporarily.
- You will have some further drops to prevent a rise in the pressure.
- You may be asked to wait for a pressure check in 30-60 minutes.
- You may take 1-2 Paracetamol tablets for your headache.

- **You will be sent home with a prescription for some anti-inflammatory drops for 1-2 weeks to settle the eye after the treatment.**
- You will be given advice about any previous eye drops you may have been using.
- **You should have a follow-up appointment for a few weeks after treatment. It is important you keep this appointment.**

What are the risks of YAG PI?

- Inflammation / rise in pressure – temporary, settles with drops given.
- Bleeding – sometimes the laser hits a blood vessel in the iris muscle causing a minor bleed. This usually settles with drops given. Rarely, some people may have a larger bleed which may need further treatment.
- Rarely some people complain of ghosting of image, glare, or double vision. This tends to be more common if the position of the hole (PI) is lower and not fully covered by the upper lid.
- **Inadequate treatment** – the hole made could be small/incomplete especially in dark eyes with a thick iris muscle, or if there was a bleed. If the hole is incomplete, the laser may need to be repeated a few days later.
- **Failure of treatment** – if the angles remain narrow with high pressure despite adequate laser treatment, then further treatment may be needed, depending on the underlying contributory factors. For example, they may need a surgical Iridectomy, or Cataract surgery if a dense cataract is causing a problem.

Long term care

- **If the laser is successful and the risk of pressure rise is low, you will be discharged to your optician for yearly monitoring.**
- **If you have chronic glaucoma on treatment with drops, or high risk of glaucoma then you will need to continue with your drops and will be followed up in the hospital**
- **If you have a sudden painful red eye, loss/blurring of vision, nausea, vomiting, headache – please see urgent opinion with the emergency eye clinic.**
- Please ring – 01633 65 6268 or 01633 23 8856 (Emergency Eye Clinic) if you need any help or advice.