Other information

It is very important for you to tell us about any health conditions that you have, all the medications that you are taking and especially any allergies to medications that you have had in the past.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please ask us before you have your treatment.

Contact details

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this leaflet please contact:

Royle Eye Department on 01205 445626
Monday to Thursday 8am to 8pm
Friday 8am to 5pm

Clinic 8, Lincoln County Hospital 01522 307180 (option 5)
Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm

References

If you require a full list of references for this leaflet please email patient.information@ulh.nhs.uk

The Trust endeavours to ensure that the information given here is accurate and impartial.

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YAG Laser Posterior Capsulotomy

Ophthalmology Departments
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01205 445626
Clinic 8, Lincoln County Hospital
01522 307180
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www.ulh.nhs.uk

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Aim of leaflet

The aim of this leaflet is to tell you what a YAG laser posterior capsulotomy is, what it involves and the risks involved.

What is YAG laser posterior capsulotomy and why is it performed?

When the surgeon removes your cataract and replaces this with an artificial (intraocular) lens, the membrane (capsule) that held the lens in place remains. This can become cloudy months to years after initial surgery and cause blurred vision. Your surgeon can use a YAG (Yttrium Aluminium Garnet) laser to make a small opening in the capsule, behind the artificial lens. The opening allows light to reach the retina and improve the vision.

What does the procedure involve?

The pupil in your affected eye will be dilated using drops. These take 20 to 30 minutes to work. You will then sit and rest your chin on an instrument similar to that used to examine the eye. A contact lens will be placed on your eye to steady it and focus the laser beam. You will see some bright flashes of light and hear a clicking sound. The procedure takes approximately 10 minutes.

Your eye may become pink and slightly uncomfortable and the vision is often disturbed for a few hours. For this reason you cannot drive yourself home. Apart from driving, you can resume normal activities immediately. Your whole visit will take up to 2 hours.

Are there any risks?

- **Floaters -** you may notice floaters as shadows across your field of vision for some days or weeks after treatment. These usually become less noticeable with time.
- **Pitting of the intraocular lens -** commonly the laser will mark the intraocular lens but this usually causes no visual problems. Very rarely it can cause problems with your vision.
- **Inflammation -** although in most cases there is no pain afterwards, a few people may find that the eye may become red and uncomfortable for a day or two after the procedure.
- **Post-operative eye pressure rise -** the pressure inside the eye may become raised after the procedure. This usually goes away, but very occasionally further treatment may be necessary.

Less common risks

- **Retinal detachment -** the retina, which is the inner lining of the eye, can become detached. This happens in about 1 or 2 people in every hundred who have had laser capsulotomy. The risk is higher if you are short sighted. If untreated, retinal detachment can lead to reduced or complete loss of eyesight, but if detected early it can usually be successfully treated.
- **Macular oedema -** the retina can become swollen, causing blurring of vision. This happens in about 1 or 2 people in every hundred who have had laser capsulotomy. The risk is higher if you are diabetic. Macular oedema can usually be treated with eye drops, but it may take several weeks to improve.
- **Allergy -** to drops given during or after the procedure, causing an itchy swollen eye until the drops are stopped or changed.
- **Dislocation or damage to the intraocular lens -** rarely the lens may be damaged or move out of position. This can cause visual problems. In exceptional circumstances, the lens may need to be changed in another operation.
- **Further laser treatment -** rarely you may need a subsequent similar treatment with laser.
- **Damage to vision -** eye treatment for any condition always carries a very small risk that vision may be worse or lost.