

Staffordshire Eye Clinic

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YAG Laser Capsulotomy Information

(Procedure Code C7340)

During removal of a cataract, a thin membrane is left behind to support the artificial lens implant. This membrane is the lens capsule or bag. In a small proportion of people (between 5 and 20%), this capsule changes from being transparent to hazy. This is known as posterior capsule opacification. If haze does occur, it causes impairment in eyesight. The haze can be removed using a laser, which makes a clear window-like opening in the capsule.

Treatment is only necessary if the haze causes your eyesight to deteriorate, so you will know if there is a problem. If you have capsule haze but do not have laser treatment your vision will not improve. If your sight is not affected, you do not need laser treatment.

Laser light is a highly concentrated beam of light. Laser treatment is used to treat a variety of eye disorders. A laser looks similar to the microscope used to examine your eyes whilst in clinic.

The Consultant will apply local anaesthetic drops to the eye and insert a lens to allow treatment. During the laser treatment you will be aware of the flashing light and clicking from the treatment. Your vision will be blurred for a few hours following the laser treatment.

Are there side effects?

Your Consultant has recommended the treatment because the risks of not doing treatment are greater than the overall risks of treatment. An eye drop is used before the laser treatment to prevent a rise in intraocular pressure. Rarely, laser capsulotomy can cause inflammation inside your eye (iritis) or damage to the retina (macular oedema or very rarely retinal detachment). If you notice progressive blurring or floaters in the days or weeks after laser treatment you should contact your Consultant for a repeat examination. Laser treatment will not cause your artificial lens implant to fall out.

If you have remaining questions you should discuss them with the Consultant prior to the laser treatment.

- Your pupils will be dilated
- Do not drive home
- Your driver will need coins to pay for hospital car parking. Your total stay will be approximately one hour
- Please show this sheet to the nurse on arrival so that dilating drops can be instilled

The treatment takes place at

Eye Outpatient Clinic
University Hospital of North Staffordshire.

The test appointment is on _____

at _____

Please instil on arrival –

<i>Patient Name</i>		
<i>G. tropicamide 1%</i>	<i>Left / Right Eye</i>	<i>Consultant signature</i>
<i>G phenylephrine 2.5%</i>		
<i>G iopidine 1%</i>		