

# Staffordshire Eye Clinic

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## Retinal Laser Information

*(Procedure Code C8200)*

Retinal laser treatment is used for a variety of reasons in different conditions including diabetes and blood vessel diseases of the eye.

Laser is a highly concentrated beam of light. A laser looks similar to the microscope used to examine your eyes whilst in clinic. Laser can be used to reduce leakage in the retina which is the delicate inner lining of the eye (known as 'macular laser'). The laser treatment will typically slow down (or sometimes even stop) worsening of vision. The laser creates small burns on the delicate inner lining.

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 of the laser. Your vision will be blurred for a few hours following the laser treatment.

### Are there side effects?

You should be clear that the benefits are variable and there are significant risks. Laser burns can affect the quality of central vision and in very rare cases a burn to the centre of the eye can severely impair vision.

Laser is used in a different way (pan-retinal laser) to treat large areas of the retina to cause regression of abnormal blood vessels. This type of laser can affect the peripheral field of vision and prevent driving in the long term if both eyes are affected in around 10% of individuals treated.

Your Consultant has recommended the treatment because the risks of not doing treatment are greater than the overall risks of treatment. You will be asked to sign a consent form.

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 Clinic  
University Hospital of North Staffordshire.

The test appointment is on \_\_\_\_\_

at \_\_\_\_\_

Please dilate 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>		