

YAG LASER TREATMENT

Why do I need this procedure?

During your cataract operation, the natural lens inside your eye was taken out of its bag and replaced with a new plastic lens. Quite often this membranous bag thickens and so it can seem as if a cataract is developing again.

What to expect before the procedure?

- Your vision and Intra Ocular Pressure (IOP) or eye pressure will be checked
- You will be given some drops to prepare the eye to prevent the eye pressure rising
- You will have anaesthetic drops put into your eye
- After signing consent a contact lens will be put into the eye
- The laser light is focused on to the membrane only and after a few seconds the membrane is divided by multiple shots.
- You may feel a tingling sensation or a knocking sensation but it should not be painful
- The duration of the procedure isn't very long

After Treatment

Your eye will be rinsed with saline drops and then your vision will be measured 10-15 minutes after your procedure.

Success Rate

The treatment is usually successful in terms of improving the vision. Obviously the more "thicker" the membrane, the more dramatic the improvement will be. However, if the main cause of reduced vision was due to a retinal problem rather than a membrane problem there may be no improvement.

Possible side effects

After laser capsulotomy patients often notice a round solitary floater, this is the disc of the capsule cut from the bag by the laser. With time this becomes smaller and denser and will sometimes float out of vision and then sometimes float back into vision. It may also disappear out of the light pathway and become adherent to the structures in the eye and so it will disappear. Other times it stays intermittently returning into view.

There is a small risk involved in the laser treatment and this may be as much as 1% risk of causing a retinal detachment. (This risk doubles if your eye is highly short sighted, 2%). You will have an eye examination 6 weeks after your laser treatment to check that this has not occurred.

If you notice any sudden shower of floaters or curtain-like field defect or worsening of sharpness of vision after treatment, then you should return promptly for a check- up.

Insurance Codes

If you are covered by medical insurance the codes are as follows:

C7340 Yag Capsulotomy – unilateral

C7341 Yag Capsulotomy – bi-lateral