



Patient & Family Guide
2018

YAG Laser Capsulotomy

Aussi disponible en français :
Capsulotomie au laser YAG (FF85-1947)



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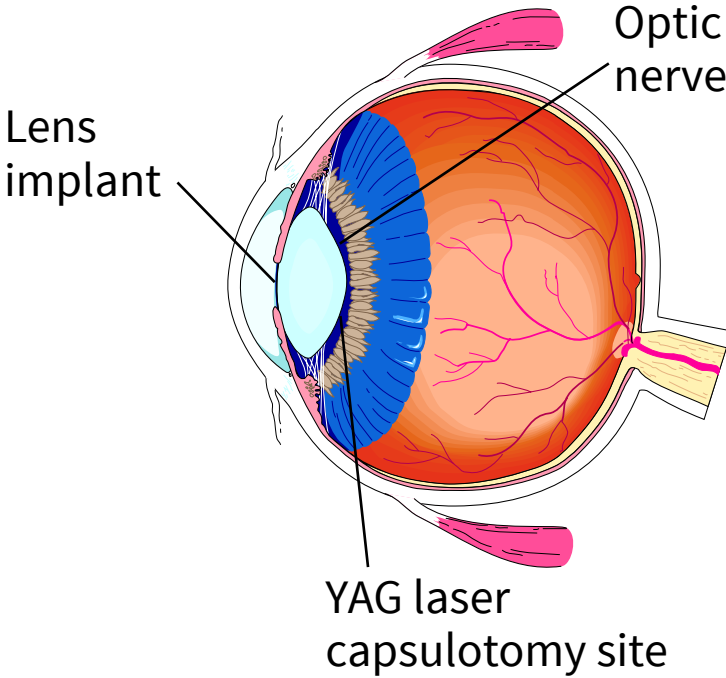
YAG Laser Capsulotomy

This pamphlet will help you learn about this treatment and how to care for yourself.

A cataract is when the lens in your eye gets cloudy over time. The lens sits in a capsule. During surgery, the cloudy lens is removed, leaving the capsule in place. A lens implant is put in front of the capsule.

In up to half of patients who have had cataract surgery, the capsule also becomes cloudy. When this happens, vision becomes blurred. This cloudiness can be treated with a YAG laser.

The YAG laser is used to make an opening in the capsule (capsulotomy), like making a hole in a piece of plastic wrap. Vision is usually clearer 1 to 2 days after the treatment.



How do I get ready for the YAG capsulotomy?

- Take your eye drops and regular medications as usual.
- Eat your regular meals before coming to the Eye Care Centre, or bring a snack.
- Bring all of your drops and medications, or a list of their names, with you to the Eye Care Centre.

- We suggest that another person come with you to the Eye Care Centre and take you home.
- Register using a self check-in kiosk in the main entrance of the Centennial or Dickson Buildings, Victoria General site. Next, go to the Eye Care Centre in the Centennial Building, 2A.
- You may be at the Eye Care Centre for about 2 hours.

What happens during the YAG laser capsulotomy?

- You will be asked to sign a consent form.
- The treatment will take about 5 to 10 minutes.
- You will be given eye drops to dilate (made bigger) your pupil. This will give your doctor a good view of the capsule.
- You will sit at a microscope, similar to the one used in your eye doctor's office.

- Freezing drops will be placed in your eye. This is to prevent discomfort from the special contact lens used to hold your eyelids apart and magnify (make bigger) the area being treated.
- You will be asked to place your head on the microscope's chinrest, and to press your forehead forward firmly on a narrow band. A small strap may be placed around the back of your head to help keep your head steady.
- Your doctor will place a special contact lens on your eye to keep your eyelids open and to magnify and focus on the area being treated.
- You will see a red light circling around and hear a faint "snapping" noise by your head during the treatment. This will not hurt. Try not to be startled by the snapping noise.
- After the treatment, your vision will be blurred. It should clear up within about 4 hours.

What can I expect after the treatment?

- Continue taking all of your eye drops and medications as usual.
- Your doctor may ask you to use new anti-inflammatory eye drops. Use these as told by your doctor.
- You may do all of your usual activities.

What are the possible complications of this treatment?

- YAG laser capsulotomy is a very safe procedure and complications are rare.
- YAG laser capsulotomy always causes some inflammation (swelling) which will make your eye red, irritated, and sensitive to light. Usually this inflammation goes away after a few days. Very rarely, if the inflammation continues, it can cause swelling in either the centre of vision (cystoid macular edema), or the front part of the eye (corneal edema).

- Rarely, YAG laser capsulotomy may cause increased eye pressure. This is treated with additional eye drops or oral medications (taken by mouth) and usually goes away over time. Very rarely, this increase may continue and some patients may need surgery.
- The most common side effect of YAG laser capsulotomy is the appearance of floaters. Floaters are little black lines and spots that appear in your field of vision. These usually go away within a few days.
- The greatest risk of a YAG laser capsulotomy is the chance of getting a detached retina. A retinal detachment happens in about one in 100 patients who have the procedure. Tell your ophthalmologist if you have any of these symptoms: shadows in your peripheral (side) vision, floaters that don't go away, or flashes of light.

What are your questions?

Please ask. We are here to help you.

