

Notes:

This pamphlet is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice or professional judgment of a health care provider. The information may not apply to all situations. If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

Find all patient education resources here:
www.nshealth.ca/patient-education-resources

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time:
Call 811 or visit: <https://811.novascotia.ca>

Prepared by: Eye Care Centre

Illustration by: LifeART Super Anatomy 1 Images,
Copyright © 1994, TechPool Studios Corp. USA

Designed and Managed by: Nova Scotia Health Library Services

WW85-0464 © July 2025 Nova Scotia Health Authority
To be reviewed July 2028 or sooner, if needed.
Learn more: <https://library.nshealth.ca/patient-education-resources>

YAG Laser Capsulotomy

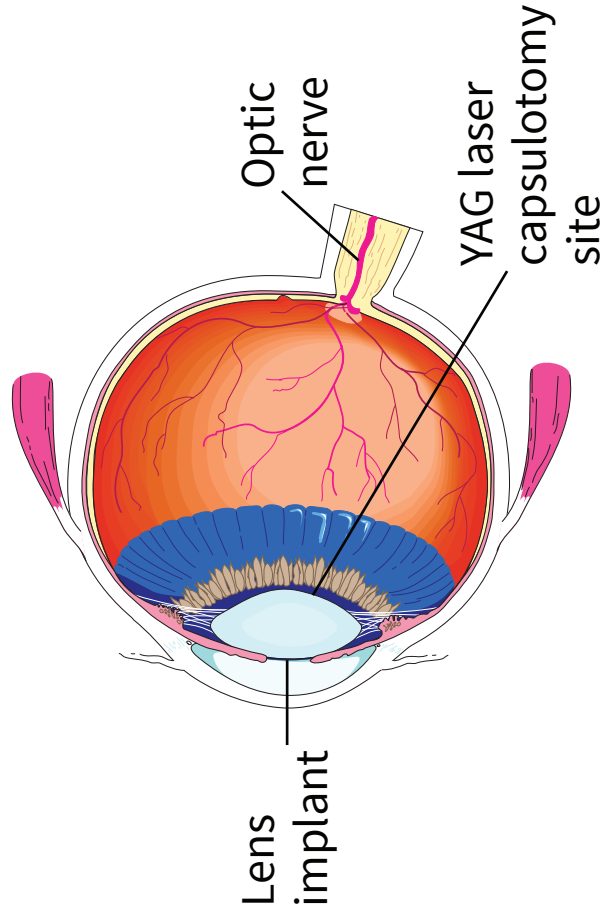
Register using a self check-in kiosk
in the main entrance of the Centennial Building or the Dickson Building, Victoria General (VG) site.
Next, go to the Eye Care Centre in the Centennial Building, unit 2A.

YAG Laser Capsulotomy

What is a YAG laser capsulotomy?

After cataract surgery, it is common for the thin capsule behind your new lens to become cloudy. This can make your vision blurry again.

A YAG laser capsulotomy is a quick and painless procedure done using a laser. Your ophthalmologist (eye doctor) will create a small opening in the cloudy capsule. Most people notice their vision improves within 1 to 2 days.



Call your eye doctor right away if you have:



- A shadow or curtain in your side vision
- New floaters that do not go away
- Flashes of light that do not go away

Questions?

- We are here to help.
- If you have any questions before or after your treatment, contact your eye care team.

Are there any side effects or risks?

- YAG laser capsulotomy is a safe and common procedure. Side effects are usually mild and go away quickly.
- You might experience:
 - › Blurry vision or floaters for a short time
 - › Dry eyes or a feeling like something is in your eye
 - › Mild redness or sensitivity to light
 - › Changes in your glasses prescription
- Rare risks may include:
 - › Swelling inside the eye called cystoid macular edema or corneal edema (usually treated with drops)
 - › More eye pressure (treated with drops or pills)
 - › Retinal detachment (very rare, but serious)

How do I get ready for my treatment?

- ☐ Take your regular medications and eye drops as usual.
- ☐ Eat your usual meals before coming to the Eye Care Centre. You may also bring a snack.
- ☐ Bring all of your medications (including eye drops, herbal products, and supplements) or a list of their names with you to your appointment.
- ☐ Arrange for someone to drive you home. **You cannot drive for at least 4 hours after the procedure.**
- ☐ Plan to be at the centre for about 2 hours.

What happens during the procedure?

- You will be asked to sign a consent form.
- Eye drops will be used to dilate (make larger) your pupil.
- You will have eye drop to numb your eye.
- You will sit at a microscope like the one used during eye exams.
- A special lens will be placed on your eye.
- You will see a red light and hear a clicking sound. This is the laser. It does not hurt.
- The procedure takes about 5 to 15 minutes.

After your treatment

- After the treatment, your vision may be blurry and you may see floaters (small spots or lines). This usually clears up within a few hours.
- **Do not drive** for at least 4 hours.
- After 4 hours, you can return to your usual activities.
- Keep using your regular medications and eye drops.
- Your eye doctor may give you new eye drops to lower swelling. Use them as directed.