

YAG Laser Capsulotomy

Register using a self check-in kiosk in the main entrance of the Centennial or the Dickson Building, Victoria General site.

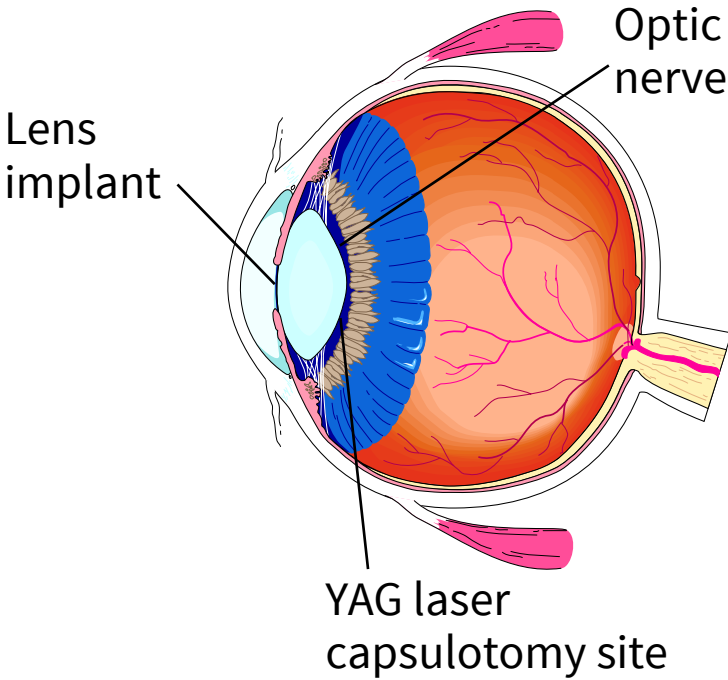
Next, go to the Eye Care Centre in the Centennial Building, 2A.

YAG Laser Capsulotomy

A cataract is when the lens in your eye gets cloudy over time. The lens sits in a capsule (clear sac). 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 people who have had cataract surgery, the capsule also gets cloudy. When this happens, vision becomes blurred. This cloudiness can be treated with a YAG (Yttrium aluminum garnet) 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.

**What are your questions?
Please ask. We are here to help you.**



How do I get ready for my YAG capsulotomy?

- Take your eye drops and regular medications as usual.
- Eat your usual meals before coming to the Eye Care Centre. You may also bring a snack.
- Bring all of your eye 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. **You must not drive for at least 4 hours.**
- You will 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 (make bigger) your pupil. This will give your eye 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.
- Your eye doctor will place a special contact lens on your eye to keep your eyelids open. It will also help to magnify and focus on the area being treated.
- You will see a red light 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?

- Keep taking all of your eye drops and medications as usual.
- Your eye doctor may ask you to use new anti-inflammatory eye drops to help with swelling. Use these as told by your eye 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 your vision (cystoid macular edema), or the front part of the eye (corneal edema).

- Rarely, YAG laser capsulotomy may cause more eye pressure. This is treated with eye drops or oral (taken by mouth) medications and usually goes away over time. Very rarely, this pressure may continue and you 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.
- A YAG laser capsulotomy may increase the risk of your retina detaching (coming apart) after cataract surgery. Tell your eye surgeon if you have any of these symptoms:
 - › A curtain-like shadow over your side vision
 - › Floaters or flashes of light that do not go away

What are your questions?

Please ask. We are here to help you.

