

## YAG Laser Peripheral Iridotomy Treatment for Glaucoma

### Information for patients

#### What is a laser peripheral iridotomy?

An iridotomy is a small hole created with a laser beam in the outer part of the iris (coloured part of the eye). A laser peripheral iridotomy is performed to treat or prevent a sudden rise in pressure inside the eye (acute glaucoma). A sustained rise in pressure can cause permanent loss of side and central vision. The iridotomy allows fluid to circulate freely within the eye minimising the risk of a sight threatening pressure rise.

There are three reasons for this procedure:

- To prevent an attack of acute glaucoma
- To treat an attack of acute glaucoma
- To treat chronic glaucoma where the drainage channel is very narrow

This laser procedure is performed to preserve sight. It will not restore lost sight or improve the existing sight.

#### What are the risks of having this treatment?

Complications are uncommon. The most common complications are a rise in pressure and some inflammation shortly after the treatment. This resolves by itself quite quickly in most cases. You may need further treatment in the form of drops or tablets, to control the baseline intraocular pressure (IOP).

Other risks include:

- Bleeding in front of the iris
- Clouding of the cornea (window) of the eye
- Cataract

#### The day of your treatment

The treatment takes approximately 15 minutes, but please allow between one and two hours to be at the hospital to allow for post-treatment checks etc. Your treatment will be undertaken in the eye clinic. On your arrival a nurse will check your vision, check for any allergies and if necessary administer some eye drops prior to your treatment.

The doctor undertaking your treatment will explain the procedure, ask you to sign a consent form and will administer some drops to numb the surface of your eye.

You will be asked to sit down at an instrument on which you will rest your chin; this instrument is similar to that used to examine your eyes. A contact lens will be placed on your eye to steady it and to focus the laser beam. You may see some bright flashes of light; you will hear some clicking noises and you may feel some slight discomfort. If the discomfort becomes too much, the doctor will either pause the treatment or stop it completely. If the treatment is stopped, the doctor may have to rebook you another appointment in order to complete the treatment.

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## After your treatment

The doctor will administer some more eye drops and will check your eye pressure a little while after the treatment has been completed. If the eye pressure is satisfactory you will then be able to go home. A short course of ant-inflammatory drops is usually prescribed at discharge.

Your eye may become a little pink and sore and your vision may be disturbed for a short time afterwards or even for the rest of the day. **For this reason, patients are advised not to drive themselves home.** Apart from driving, you can resume normal activities straight away.

You may be prescribed additional medication to use for a few days, to prevent inflammation and a rise in pressure. If you have been prescribed drops for glaucoma, please continue to use them until or unless instructed otherwise.

An appointment will be made for another check-up in eye clinic. Some patients will require more than one laser procedure.

## Further information and advice can be obtained from:

### Maidstone Hospital Eye Clinic

9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

☎ 01622 226228 (answerphone)

☎ 01622 226202

### Tunbridge Wells Hospital (Pembury) Eye Department

9.00am - 5.00pm, Monday to Thursday

9.00am - 1.30pm Friday

☎ 01892 633877 (answerphone)

☎ 01892 633880

☎ 01892 634450

### For out of hours ring

Ask for the on-call eye doctor or go to your nearest A&E department.

☎ 01622 729000

**NHS 111**

**NHS Choices online**

☎ 111

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

**Please use this space to write any notes or questions you may have.**

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Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust welcomes all forms of feedback from our service users. If the standard of service you have received from the Trust does not meet your expectations, we want to hear from you. Please speak with the ward manager or the nurse in charge in the first instance, or you can contact the **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)** on:

**Telephone:** ☎ 01622 224960 or ☎ 01892 632953

**Email:** [mtw-tr.palsoffice@nhs.net](mailto:mtw-tr.palsoffice@nhs.net)

**or visit their office** at either Maidstone or Tunbridge Wells Hospital between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday.

You can be confident that your care will not be affected by highlighting any areas of concern or making a complaint. The Trust will retain a record of your contact, which is held separately to any medical records. If you are acting on behalf of a patient, we may need to obtain the patient's consent in order to protect patient confidentiality. More information on PALS or making a complaint can be found on the Trust's website: [www.mtw.nhs.uk](http://www.mtw.nhs.uk) or pick up a leaflet from main reception.

Issue date: November 2022

Database reference: RWF-HNK-OPH-LEA-PAT-22

Review date: November 2026

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