

# YAG Laser Capsulotomy

## Information for patients

### Why do I need this treatment?

During cataract surgery, an artificial lens is put into the eye to replace the cataract after its removal. On occasions the transparent membrane onto which the artificial lens is placed can begin to go cloudy, resulting in your vision deteriorating again. This can occur several weeks, months or even years after your cataract surgery. The laser treatment is designed to clear away the membrane and improve your vision again.

### What will happen during my procedure?

**Please do not drive yourself to this appointment.**

On arrival in the department, a nurse will check your vision, ask about any allergies you may have and then put some drops into your eye(s) to dilate the pupil(s) prior to the treatment.

The doctor undertaking your procedure will explain what will happen; they need to obtain your written consent before the procedure can begin. An anaesthetic drop to numb your eye will be administered and a contact lens placed on the surface of your eye, with a small amount of gel. This allows the doctor to focus the laser beam directly onto the membrane.

During the laser procedure you will hear a clicking sound which is the laser firing. The procedure should not be painful.

### What happens after the procedure?

You should be able to resume normal activities immediately, although **you must not drive until the effects of the dilating drops have worn off** (usually within a few hours). You may experience some floaters in your vision afterward but these will likely resolve within a few weeks.

Your doctor may prescribe a short course of anti-inflammatory drops to use afterwards.

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

This is a low risk procedure. The risks are rare but include:

- retinal detachment
- an increase in the pressure inside your eye
- macular oedema (swelling at back of your eye)
- damage to the intra ocular lens

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**Further information and advice can be obtained from:**

**Maidstone Hospital Eye Clinic**

9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday

☎ 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.**

**MTW NHS Trust is committed to making its patient information accessible in a range of languages and formats. If you need this leaflet in another language or format please ask one of your clinical care team or the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). We will do our best to arrange this.**

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: April 2017

Database reference: RWF-HNK-OPH-LEA-PAT-18

Review date: April 2020

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