

# Yag Laser Capsulotomy

An information guide



# Yag Laser Capsulotomy

## What is Yag laser capsulotomy?

Yag laser capsulotomy is a laser treatment. After a cataract operation the lens capsule, which supports the artificial lens can become cloudy. This then prevents the light from reaching the back of the eye (retina). To treat this, a laser beam is used to make a small opening in the cloudy membrane to improve the eyesight. This is a painless procedure and lasts between 15 to 45 minutes. It is carried out at your outpatients' appointment.

## Why do I need laser treatment?

Laser treatment will improve your vision, allowing you to see more clearly.

Please eat, drink and take your medication as normal. If possible, bring someone with you, as it is illegal to drive yourself to or from your appointment. If there is no one to help you, then a taxi is advisable.

## Before treatment

Your vision will be checked on arrival. Drops will then be put into your eye to make the pupil dilate (get bigger).

## **Possible risks**

Risks can never be completely removed, but unexpected problems are rare, they may include:

- Retinal Detachment (less than 1%).
- Transient increase in eye pressure, known as Glaucoma (7.5%).
- Long term increase in eye pressure, also known as Glaucoma (less than 1.0%).
- Accumulation of fluid at the back of the eye (retina), known as Macular Oedema (less than 1%).
- Lens displacement (less than 1%).
- Laser unsuccessful (less than 1%).
- Inflammation in the eye, known as Uveitis (rare).
- Reduction in vision (very rare).

## **After the laser treatment**

You may find that immediately following the procedure you are unable to see properly. This is due to the bright flash of light from the laser. Your vision should become clearer in about 40 minutes. The drops you will have to dilate your pupils will blur your vision for several hours. If you are diabetic, you may find that your vision is blurred for up to 10 days. Slight pain or discomfort may be experienced afterwards, although taking your usual painkillers should help, but do not exceed the recommended dose.

After treatment you will be allowed to go home. However, if you have any of the following conditions, then a further appointment for 3 to 4 months will be given:

- Pre-existing Glaucoma.
- Uveitis.
- Excessive short sightedness.
- Difficulty in seeing the back of the eye due to the cloudy membrane.

Usually no further treatment is required unless there was pre-existing uveitis, which can be treated with a short course of eye drops.

### **Vision after laser treatment**

The vision usually improves after the laser treatment. However, if there are other pre-existing eye conditions such as macular degeneration, then your vision may not improve to the expected standards.

### **Important**

If you experience any of the following, then please contact the hospital immediately.

- Flashing lights.
- A large number of floaters or existing floaters worsening.
- A curtain covering part of your vision.
- Pain that does not resolve after taking painkillers.

## **Contact Numbers**

### **The Royal Oldham Hospital, Oldham**

**A&E Department - 0161 627 8933**

Friday 5pm until Monday 9am

### **Oldham Integrated Care Centre Eye Clinic -0161 621 38721**

Monday – Friday 9am - 4.30pm

### **Rochdale Infirmary, Rochdale**

**Eye Clinic - 01706 901757**

Monday - Friday 9am until 5pm.

**Eye Ward - 01706 901765**

Monday - Friday 8am until 8pm (answer machine after 8pm)

**Urgent Care Centre - 01706 517005**

Monday - Friday after 8pm. Friday 8pm until Monday 9am

**Fairfield General, Bury**

**A&E Department - 0161 778 2600**

Monday - Friday after 8pm. Friday 8pm until Monday 8am

**Eye Ward and Clinic - same contact details as Rochdale Infirmary**

**Tameside Hospital Foundation Trust**

**A&E Department - 0161 922 6000**

Available 24 hours

**Eye secretary - 0161 331 6388**

**Notes:**

**If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service**

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو ، براہ کرم ترجمانی اور ترجمہ خدمت سے رابطہ کریں

Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

ইংরাজী যদি আপনার প্রথম ভাষা না হয় এবং আপনার সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তবে অনুগ্রহ করে দোভাষী এবং অনুবাদ পরিষেবাটিতে যোগাযোগ করুন

إذا لم تكن الإنجليزية هي لغتك الأولى وتحتاج إلى مساعدة ، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الشفوية والتحريرية

☎ : 0161 627 8770

@ : interpretation@pat.nhs.uk

To improve our care environment for Patients, Visitors and Staff, **Northern Care Alliance NHS Group** is Smoke Free including buildings, grounds & car parks.

For advice on stopping smoking contact the Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 01706 517 522

**For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897**

**For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service**

The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) is one of the largest NHS organisations in the country, employing 17,000 staff and providing a range of hospital and community healthcare services to around 1 million people across Salford, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale and surrounding areas. Our Care Organisations are responsible for providing our services, delivering safe, high quality and reliable care to the local communities they serve.

The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).

 [www.facebook.com/NorthernCareAllianceNHSGroup](http://www.facebook.com/NorthernCareAllianceNHSGroup)

 [www.linkedin.com/company/northern-care-alliance-nhs-group](http://www.linkedin.com/company/northern-care-alliance-nhs-group)

 Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) @NCAlliance\_NHS

**Date of publication: November 2006**

**Date of review: December 2020**

**Date of next review: December 2022**

**Ref: PI(SU)103**

**© The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group**

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

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

