

Laser treatment for Glaucoma

An information guide



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What is peripheral iridotomy?

Laser peripheral iridotomy (Laser PI) is a form of treatment for patients with specific types of glaucoma (raised pressure in the eye).

Laser PI involves creating a tiny opening in the iris (coloured part of the eye), allowing the fluid in the eye to flow from behind the iris to the front, where it can be drained effectively.

What does PI involve?

Your treatment will be performed in a specially equipped laser room. Drops may be instilled to make your pupil smaller. This stretches and thins the iris, which makes it easier for the laser to make the tiny opening.

Next, drops to numb your eye will be instilled – no injections are used. The doctor will place a special contact lens on your eye to focus the laser light upon the iris. This lens keeps your eyelids separated so you won't blink, and also stops the eye from moving during treatment.

During the laser treatment you may see a bright light, like a photographer's flash, and feel a pinch-like sensation. Other than that, the treatment should be painless.

The pressure in your eye may be checked 30 minutes after the procedure. You will be given eye drops to use to reduce the soreness inside the eye. Follow-up visits are necessary to monitor your eye pressure.

Frequently asked questions

Does laser PI reverse or cure my glaucoma?

In general, glaucoma is not reversed by any procedures or medicines. The goal of treatment is to reduce the risk of a further rise in pressure in your eye. Although a Laser PI may lower the pressure in your eye for a considerable period of time, further treatment may be needed.

Is the procedure painful?

You may experience mild discomfort, but the front of the eye will have been numbed with drops.

What are the potential complications?

A laser PI is a safe procedure, but like any medical procedure it does have some risks.

Complications are rare and could include:

- Brief blurred vision (common).
- Swelling of the front part of the eye.
- Bleeding.
- Temporary increased pressure in the eye.
- Closure of the new opening.
- Cataracts.

Contact details

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact one the telephone numbers below.

If you feel unwell, don't delay, please ring. The lines are open 24 hours a day.

The Royal Oldham Hospital, Oldham

A&E department – 0161 627 8923

Friday 5pm until Monday 9am

Oldham Integrated Care Centre Eye Clinic – 0161 621 3813

Monday – Friday 09.30-16.30

Rochdale Infirmary

Eye Clinic – 01706 901757

Monday - Friday between 9am and 5pm.

Eye Ward – 01706 901765

Monday to Friday between 8am and 8pm (answer machine after 8pm)

Urgent Care Centre – 01706 517005

After 8pm Monday to Friday. Friday 8pm to Monday 9am

Fairfield Hospital, Bury

Eye Ward and Eye Clinic - as per Rochdale Infirmary contact details

Accident & Emergency – 0161 778 2600

After 8pm Monday to Friday. Friday 8pm until Monday 8am

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

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

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☎ : 0161 627 8770

@ : interpretation@pat.nhs.uk

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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

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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).

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