

Retinal Laser (Photo Coagulation)

An information guide



Retinal Laser (Photo Coagulation)

What is retinal laser (photo coagulation)?

This is a technique used in the eye department to treat:

- Diabetes.
- Age-related changes in the back of the eye.
- Retinal breaks and detachment.
- Retinal vascular problems.
- Glaucoma.
- Division or removal of stitches.

Why do I need laser?

This treatment stabilises and preserves vision in most cases.

Before treatment

Before the laser you should eat and drink and take all your medication as normal.

On arrival your vision will be checked, and drops will be put into your eyes to make the pupil dilate (get bigger). If possible, please bring someone to the appointment with you, as the effects of laser may affect your ability to drive for the rest of the day.

If there is no one to help you, then a taxi is advisable.

The procedure

An anaesthetic drop will be put into the eye to numb the surface. A contact lens may be placed on the front of the eye, which may feel odd but will not hurt.

You may then be asked to move your eyes in different directions, and you will need to sit very still so the doctor can carry out the laser treatment.

You will hear some noise during the laser treatment but please do not worry. Sometimes you may need to lie down on a bed for the treatment.

Possible risks

As with most procedures there are some potential side effects associated with laser which are split into two groups, common and rare.

Common side effects:

- Flashing lights for up to one day.
- Some pain if you undergo a lot of laser treatment.
- Swelling at the back of the eye if you undergo a lot of laser treatment.
- A reduction in the field of vision (only after multiple treatments).
- Difficulty in adapting to changing light level.
- It may affect reading vision if the laser is close to the line of sight.

Rare side effects:

- Scarring on the centre of the line of vision resulting in loss of vision.
- Cataract.
- Bleeding inside the eye.
- Damage to the nerve at the back of the eye.

After treatment

You may experience blurred vision for a few minutes after your procedure. This is due to the drops and laser beam.

If you are diabetic you may experience blurred vision for up to 10 days. If you do experience some discomfort afterwards take your usual pain reliever (do not exceed the recommended dose).

It may be necessary to have more than one treatment session especially in diabetes and retinal problems.

Contact Numbers

The Royal Oldham Hospital:

Accident & Emergency Department

Telephone Number: 0161 627 8933

Friday 5:00pm until Monday 9:00am

Oldham Integrated Care Centre Eye Clinic:

Telephone Number: 0161 621 3721

Monday – Friday 9:00am - 4:30pm

Rochdale Infirmary:

Eye Clinic

Telephone Number: 01706 901757

Monday - Friday 9:00am until 5:00pm.

Eye Ward

Telephone Number: 01706 901765

Monday - Friday 8:00am until 8:00pm

(answer machine after 8:00pm)

Urgent Care Centre

Telephone Number: 01706 517005

Monday - Friday after 8:00pm

Friday 8:00pm until Monday 9:00am

Fairfield General Hospital:

Eye Clinic

Telephone Number: 01706 901757

Monday - Thursday 9:00am until 5:00pm.

Friday 9:00am until 12:30pm

Eye Ward

Telephone Number: 01706 901765

Monday - Friday 8:00am until 8:00pm

(answer machine after 8:00pm)

Accident & Emergency Department

Telephone Number: 0161 778 2600

Monday - Friday after 8:00pm.

Friday 8:00pm until Monday 8:00am

Tameside Hospital Foundation Trust :

Accident & Emergency Department

Telephone Number: 0161 922 6000

Available 24 hours

Eye secretary

Telephone Number: 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

 www.linkedin.com/company/northern-care-alliance-nhs-group

 Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) @NCAlliance_NHS

Date of publication: April 2007

Date of review: December 2020

Date of next review: December 2022

Ref: PI(SU)338

© The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group

www.pat.nhs.uk

www.northernalliance.nhs.uk

