

# Laser Peripheral Iridotomy

An information guide



# Laser Peripheral Iridotomy

## What is laser peripheral iridotomy?

Laser peripheral iridotomy is a laser treatment to the eye used to treat and prevent angle closure glaucoma.

Ordinarily in the eye, fluid (aqueous humour) exits the eye via a drainage system called the trabecular meshwork. If you have a narrow eye angle (shape of your eye), you may be at significant risk of developing angle closure glaucoma. In angle closure glaucoma, the drainage system of the eye is obstructed by the iris (coloured part of our eyes). This causes pressure in the eyes to rapidly build, leading to pain and loss of vision.

Laser peripheral iridotomy uses laser energy to form an opening in the iris; forming a passage for fluid to flow through and preventing the drainage system from being closed.

The procedure itself lasts a few minutes at your outpatients' department however expect to be in the department longer to allow the eye drops to take effect.

## **Why do I need laser treatment?**

Laser peripheral iridotomy is used to treat angle closure glaucoma or prevent it occurring in the future. This procedure is intended to save your remaining sight. It does not restore previously lost vision, nor will it improve current vision.

## **Before treatment**

Your vision will be checked on arrival. Drops may then be put into your eye to make the pupil constrict (become smaller), as well as local anaesthetic drops to numb your eye.

## **During the treatment**

The procedure will be carried out in one of the laser treatment rooms. You do not need to fast or change into hospital gowns.

You will be seated at a machine similar to the one used to examine your eyes in the eye clinic. The doctor may apply a contact lens to the surface of your eye; this allows the doctor to see the iris clearly and to perform the laser procedure.

The procedure is painless due to the numbing drops given, however you may experience an odd sensation when the laser is applied to the eye.

## **Possible risks**

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

- Transient increase in eye pressure
- Inflammation in the eye
- Bleeding within the eye
- Corneal burns (rare)
- Lens opacities (rare)
- Macular damage (very rare)

## **After the laser treatment**

It is normal to have mild discomfort and blurring of vision for a couple of hours after the laser treatment. The eye drops given take some hours to wear off and your pupils may still be small during this time. Your vision should become clearer at the end of the day.

After the treatment we may prescribe anti-inflammatory drops and eye pressure lowering medication. The doctor will inform you of the course prescribed. If you are using any eye drops, please check with the nurse or doctor whether or not to continue using them.

You can do all of your daily activities as normal following the procedure.

**However, it is not advisable to drive on the day of the procedure.**

We will aim to see you in the outpatient department following the treatment.

## **Important**

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

- Excessive pain
- Loss of vision
- Flashing lights
- Your eye becomes increasingly red





**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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