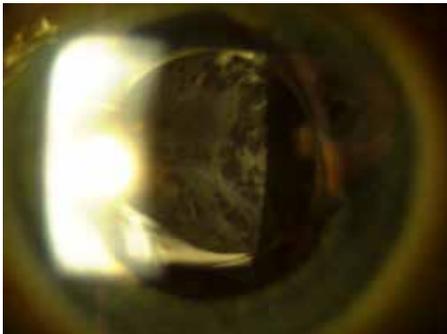


YAG laser capsulotomy

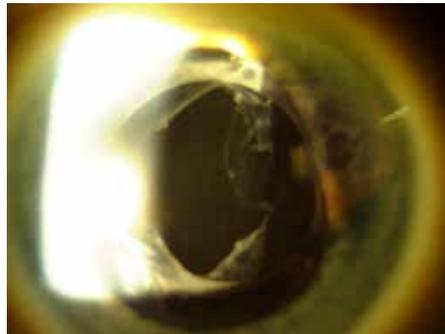
This leaflet is for patients considering a YAG laser capsulotomy. It outlines what the procedure involves and its benefits, risks and side effects. If you would like further information then please ask any member of staff.

Why do I need YAG laser capsulotomy?

Once your cataract is removed a thin membrane (capsule) is left in place, in order to hold the implanted intraocular lens. Sometimes, the capsule becomes cloudy over time and causes glare and reduction of vision. This may happen months or years after your operation, in about 30-50% of patients.



Before laser treatment



After laser treatment

What does the treatment involved?

A YAG capsulotomy is a non-invasive laser procedure carried out to improve blurred vision and reduce the glare experience. YAG capsulotomy is an outpatient procedure and takes about 15 minutes to perform and involves very little discomfort. Dilating drops (to make your pupil larger) are put in your eye(s) and the laser is used to create an opening in the centre of the cloudy capsule to clear the blurred vision. You may also be given further drops during the treatment and in some cases to continue at home for a short period.

Are there any risks?

The treatment is generally safe. However, complications may occur in a very small numbers of patients. These include inflammation inside the eye, increase in eye pressure or aggravation of existing glaucoma, movement of the lens implant and rarely, retinal hole or retinal detachment.

Is there an alternative treatment for a cloudy capsule?

Your eye specialist is happy to discuss and outline any alternative treatments available.

What should I expect after treatment?

As a general precaution we advised patient not drive after this procedure due to dilating drops. So please ensure you make arrangements for transport home.

Most patients notice an instant improvement in their vision once the dilating drops wear off, while others experience a gradual improvement over several days. It is normal to experience floaters (black spots moving around) after treatment. These floaters should settle down over a few days.

Follow-up

We do not normally give a routine follow-up appointment. However, contact the eye department immediately if you experience:

- An increase in floaters over the next few days (they should decrease).
- A sudden reduction or loss of vision.
- Severe pain or redness of the eye.

If you have got a minor eye problem, please seek advice from your GP, optician or pharmacist. If you think your problem might be urgent, please attend Eye Casualty.

Contact us

Dorrell Ward:	0118 322 7172
Eye Casualty (PCEU, Windsor):	01753 636 359
Eye Ward (Windsor):	01753 636 496

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

Eye Unit, February 2019. Review due: February 2021