

## What is YAG Capsulotomy?

The blurring of vision you are experiencing is caused by a thickening of the thin membrane which holds the lens implant that was placed in your eye during your cataract operation.

This procedure aims to improve your vision by using a special laser (called a YAG laser) to create an opening in this membrane.

## What are the risks?

The risks associated with this procedure are:

- Raised eye pressure
- Inflammation
- Swelling at the macula causing worse vision
- Retinal detachment

The risk of any of the above complications is around 1 in 100 cases.

More rare complications include:

- Lens damage
- Lens dislocation

- Chronic inflammation
- Bleed in the eye
- Complications requiring surgery

## What are the benefits?

The aim of the procedure is to make your vision clearer.

## Is there an alternative treatment?

There is currently no alternative treatment to remove the thickened membrane.

## Preparing for the procedure

Please arrange to have someone to drive you home after this procedure as your vision will be temporarily blurred from the dilating drops.

Allow plenty of time for your visit and expect to be in the corneo-plastic unit (eye clinic) for approximately two hours.

You may eat and drink as normal and take any medications as prescribed.

## What will happen during the procedure?

Drops will be put in to your eye which will dilate the pupil and lower the eye pressure.

If we have not seen you in the clinic recently, or if you are referred to the unit for the first time, both eyes will need to be dilated.

Before the procedure you will be asked to sign a consent form. Please make sure you ask any questions or raise any concerns you may have.

The laser equipment is mounted on a slit lamp like the one the doctor used to examine you in the clinic.

It is important to keep your eyes and head very still for the duration of the procedure which takes usually about 10 minutes.

You will be aware of flashing lights and you may hear a 'popping' sound.

## Following the procedure

After the procedure, you will have some more drops in your eye to prevent raised eye pressure.

You will need to continue to use eye drops for a few days after the procedure.

After the procedure, you will be aware of 'floaters' (the feeling that something is floating in your eye) which should settle in the majority of cases with time.

You may find the glare of bright daylight uncomfortable after your eyes have been dilated, wearing dark glasses may help you feel more comfortable.

We will give you an appointment for you to be reviewed in the clinic a few days or weeks after the procedure.

Please **do not drive** home after this procedure.

## What to look out for after the procedure?

If you experience increasing number of 'floaters', flashing lights or a 'dark curtain' in your vision, please contact us as soon as possible.

## Further information

Please let us know as soon as possible if you are unable to keep this appointment. This will enable us to offer your appointment to someone else.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us:

### Corneo-Plastic Unit (eye clinic)

**Tel: 01342 414470**

For enquiries during weekday working hours; ask to speak to the Nurse Lead on the day.

For emergencies out of hours, please call the Ross Tilley ward on 01342 414451 or switch board on 01342 414000

Please ask if you  
would like this leaflet  
in larger print or a  
different format.

Corneo Plastic Unit  
Issue 4 - Ref: no. 0405  
Approved by the Patient Information Group  
Print June 2022 – Review June 2025

© Copyright QVH NHS Foundation Trust

[qvh.nhs.uk](http://qvh.nhs.uk)

## YAG Laser Capsulotomy Treatment

### Corneo-Plastic Unit

