

YAG Laser Capsulotomy - Patient Information

WHAT IS A YAG LASER CAPSULOTOMY?

Approximately 20% of cataract patients will develop haze on the membrane behind the intraocular lens implant following cataract surgery, which results in diminished vision.

The vision may be blurred, hazy, or is associated with significant glare and loss of visual acuity. This condition is known as posterior capsule opacity.

In YAG Laser Capsulotomy, a laser is used to create an opening in the hazy capsule situated behind the implant to allow you to see more clearly.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE PROCEDURE?

This procedure is performed at the Rockyview General Hospital-Eye Clinic. Dr. Crichton/Ford will use drops to numb the eye and to dilate your pupil.

A special contact lens is put on your eye to help direct the laser's energy beam of light at the capsule, behind the implant in your eye.

The laser makes an opening in the capsule. You will see a few brief flashes of light and feel little to no discomfort.

The procedure usually takes less than 5 minutes, however following the procedure you will have to wait at the Eye Clinic for 45 minutes to have your eye pressure taken.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE PROCEDURE?

Your vision will probably be blurred for a short period, but then should clear later in the day. You will be given a prescription for an anti-inflammatory eye drop to use four times a day, for 5 days, following the procedure. You should be able to drive yourself, with sunglasses, and you may resume normal activities immediately. You will then see Dr. Crichton/Ford approximately six weeks later, at their office, for a follow-up visit.

ARE THERE RISKS OF THIS PROCEDURE?

There are some risks associated with the procedure, however they are very rare. They include inflammation, retinal detachment, lens dislocation and raised intraocular pressure.