

## YAG Laser Capsulotomy Patient Information

### **Introduction**

You have a condition called posterior capsule opacification. This information leaflet will explain what that condition is and your treatment. If you have any further queries please ask the nurse on duty or your doctor.

### **What is posterior capsule opacification?**

When we take out a cataract, we leave behind a small part of your original lens (called the posterior capsule) to hold the new plastic lens in place. This capsule can thicken up behind the implant. This occurs over a period of about 3 years in 30% of patients who have had cataract surgery. It is more common in children and young adults, as well as in patients with diabetes, or inflammation inside the eye (called uveitis).

### **How does it affect my vision?**

This thickening can cause a drop in vision, and you may think the cataract is coming back. Some patients may experience severe glare, or double vision in one eye.

### **Does my vision get better on its own?**

No, so if you notice a drop in your vision within 3 years of your cataract surgery, you should seek advice from your GP or Optometrist.

### **What is Yag Laser Capsulotomy and how is it done?**

A special contact lens may be put on your eye. A laser beam (a special beam of light) is used to make a series of punctures in the opacified capsule, behind the implant. This makes a small gap in the capsule. This only takes a few minutes and can improve your vision. This is the standard treatment of posterior capsule opacification, because it is relatively safe, painless, and is performed as an outpatient procedure. That means you will leave the hospital on the same day as the treatment. It is done on a machine similar to that used for regular examination of the patients in the Outpatient Clinic.

### **Will it hurt?**

Anaesthetic drops are put in the eye before the contact lens. You should not have any pain. If you do, you must inform the nurse or the doctor.

Mr Madhav Vempali FRCSEd FRCOphth  
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon

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**What happens next?**

You will be asked to stay in the outpatients' waiting area for up to 30 minutes for observation. After a final check, you will be able to go home. You may need to have a follow-up appointment.

**Can anything go wrong?**

Most people do well, and are very pleased with the results.

Some people get more thickening of the capsule than others, and may need more than one session.

There are some rare problems with the procedure, such as a temporary rise in pressure, or inflammation inside the eye. Very rarely, there might be damage to the implant, or your sight may get worse due to a build up of fluid at the centre of the vision (the macula), and extremely rarely this may cause retinal detachment especially in short sighted people. Extremely rarely the implant may move from its place.

**Will I need to use drops afterwards?**

Not always, but if so, the doctor will advise you about the proper drops to use.

**Further information**

We hope this information is helpful to you. If anything is unclear, or you have any other questions you would like to ask, then please talk to a nurse or doctor in the Ophthalmology Unit, your GP or your Optometrist.

**I have watched the video covering the above benefits and risks.**

**For more information please visit [www.vempali.com](http://www.vempali.com), patient information section.**

**By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and that I understand this information**

**Signature:**

**Date:**