

## **PATIENT INFORMATION**

# **Yag Laser Treatment for Thickened Posterior Lens Capsule**



Your name has been placed on the waiting list for:

## **YAG LASER TREATMENT**

### **SYMPTOMS**

Your vision may have gradually blurred, months or even years following cataract surgery. The lens capsule that is left behind to hold the lens implant in place, has become thickened and cloudy.

### **PURPOSE OF THE LASER TREATMENT**

Yag laser is used to make a hole in the centre of the capsule and restore your sight to the level it was after your cataract operation. Yag laser is not painful and can be done in the outpatient department.

### **WHAT IS LASER?**

Laser is a highly focused light used to perform surgical procedures.

### **HOSPITAL VISIT**

The nurse will record your vision and instill eye drops to enlarge your pupil(s). The drops take about 20 minutes to work. You will need to sign a consent form, which you can discuss with the doctor prior to treatment.

You are asked not to drive for this appointment.

## **TREATMENT**

The yag laser looks like the instrument you have your eyes examined with in the outpatients department. You will need to put your chin on the rest. Eye drops to numb your eye will be instilled prior to treatment. A small contact lens is sometimes used, this helps focus the laser and stops you from blinking. The treatment takes approximately 5-10 minutes.

## **POST – TREATMENT**

Immediately after laser treatment your vision will be very blurred because of the bright light and the drops used to enlarge your pupil. Your sight should be clearer the day after the treatment.

Your eye may be irritable for a day or two. Use the drops prescribed, this will help. You may notice some floaters moving in your field of vision. These will last for a few days, but should settle.

**Do not drive whilst your vision is blurred.**

## **OUTCOME**

In the majority of cases treatment is successful. There is no need for further appointments unless you are seen in the eye clinic for another condition.

## **RISKS**

The two major risks are retinal detachment and a collection of fluid at the back of the eye. These occur in less than 2% of patients.

There are other minor risks such as damage to the intraocular lens and a temporary rise in intra-ocular pressure. These are unlikely to cause problems with your vision.

## **ALTERNATIVES TO TREATMENT**

None. If left untreated your vision could deteriorate further.

**During your time in hospital, it is important to us that you are happy with your care and treatment. Please speak to a member of staff and/or the ward Sister/Charge Nurse if you have any questions or concerns.**

## **MATRON**

A Matron is also available during the hours of 9am – 5 pm Monday to Friday. During these periods, ward staff can contact Matron to arrange to meet with you. Out of hours, a Senior Nurse can be contacted via the ward to deal with any concerns you may have.

## **INFECTION CONTROL REQUEST**

Preventing infections is a crucial part of our patient's care. To ensure that our standards remain high our staff have regular infection prevention and control training and their practice is monitored in the workplace. We ask patients and visitors to assist us in preventing infections by cleaning their hands at regular intervals and informing staff of areas within the hospital that appear soiled.

As a patient there may be times that you are unsure whether a staff member has cleaned their hands; if in doubt please ask the staff member and they will be only too happy to put your mind at ease by cleaning their hands so that you can see them.

## **SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR AFTER YOU HAVE LEFT HOSPITAL**

Please commence your newly prescribed eye drops today.

## **ANY CONDITION SPECIFIC DANGER SIGNALS TO LOOK OUT FOR:**

Pain in and around your eye.

Reduction in vision.

Blurred vision.

Curtain effect/shadow.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION IF YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CONDITION AFTER YOU HAVE LEFT HOSPITAL**

If you have any concerns pre – or post treatment contact us:

Monday to Friday (01704) 705217

Please contact your local A&E Department out of hours

People to contact if you have any queries:

Sister Colette Bricklebank (01704) 705217 or any member of the Ophthalmic Nursing Team

## **OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS/CONTACTS:**

NHS 111

Stop Smoking Helpline (Sefton) - 0300 100 1000

Stop Smoking Helpline (West Lancashire) - 0800 328 6297

[www.allaboutvision.com/conditions/cataract-complications.htm](http://www.allaboutvision.com/conditions/cataract-complications.htm)

**Please call 01704 704714 if you need  
this leaflet in an alternative format**

**Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust**

Ormskirk & District General Hospital  
Wigan Road, Ormskirk, L39 2AZ  
Tel: (01695) 577111

Southport & Formby District General Hospital  
Town Lane, Kew, Southport, PR8 6PN  
Tel: (01704) 547471

**FOR APPOINTMENTS**

Telephone (01695) 656680  
Email [soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net](mailto:soh-tr.appointments@nhs.net)

Please remember to complete the **attached Friends and Family Test**.

Alternatively, you can complete the *Friends and Family Test* on-line by going to: [southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/FFT](http://southportandormskirk.nhs.uk/FFT)

**Thank you**

Owner: Sister Colette Bricklebank

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