



YAG Capsulotomy

Why do I need a YAG capsulotomy?

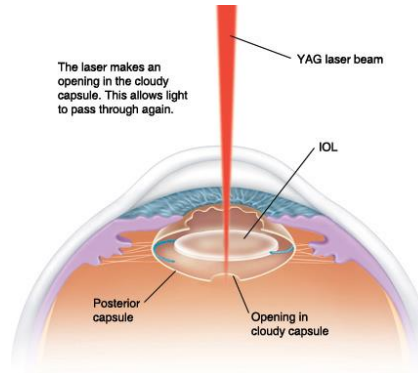
After cataract surgery, your vision may blur or you may experience glare. The back of the capsule that holds the intraocular lens (IOL) in place may become cloudy, called a posterior capsule opacification (PCO). This can occur within a few months or years after cataract surgery. Your doctor can perform a simple laser treatment to open the central cloudy PCO and improve your vision.

What should I expect during the treatment?

The YAG capsulotomy is a quick and painless procedure performed in an outpatient surgery center. The eye will be dilated and the intraocular pressure checked. You will place your chin on the chin-rest of the laser machine and hold your eye still. Sometimes a special contact lens is used to help focus the light at the correct location. You may see flashes of light and hear a clicking sound from the laser.

What are the risks of the YAG laser procedure?

Although the procedure is very safe, it has some risks. The eye pressure may rise. The laser may increase inflammation inside the eye. The laser may nick the IOL, but it does not affect the vision. Rarely, the retina may tear or detach.



How does the laser work?

A laser is a powerful energy beam that can be focused to a fine point. It is controlled, safe, and reliable. The YAG (Yttrium-Aluminum-Garnet) laser precisely focuses energy bursts onto the cloudy posterior capsule, creating a central opening. The laser passes through the clear cornea and IOL without causing harm. Enough of the capsule remains to hold the IOL in place.



What should I expect after the procedure?

The eye pressure will be checked 30-60 minutes after the procedure. You will be instructed on use of eye drops to help healing and prevent inflammation. You may notice improvement in vision within a few hours. Some patients require an updated glasses prescription to see more clearly, which is usually done 3-4 weeks after the procedure. Once the capsule is open, it will not cloud again.