

Laser Capsulotomy

What is a Capsulotomy?

For additional information you can go to www.peterheyworth.com and look under Cataract, as well as Lasers. There are illustrations, pictures and videos which will help you understand the procedure.

Why is this procedure required?

When you undergo cataract surgery the new plastic lens is placed in the natural bag that contained your original natural lens.

In up to 20% of patients the bag fibroses and becomes cloudy, which leads to blurring of vision, double vision in the affected eye, glare and haloes.

What is involved?

You will have dilating drops and anaesthetic drops put in the affected eye.

A contact lens is placed on the eye, and you will sit in front of a slit-lamp just like when you were examined previously. This microscope will have a laser attached to it.

You will experience some bright lights and a clicking sound when the laser is activated. This is not painful. The clicking sound is the laser "busting" the capsular bag, a process called photodisruption.

You may be given drops to take afterwards to control pressure or reduce inflammation. This is not always the case.

What can be expected afterwards?

Your vision will be blurred for a few hours, due to the dilating drops, the contact lens gel and the effects of the laser. Your vision should improve after this, hopefully so that it was better than prior to the procedure.

You may experience some floaters, which are due to the capsular bag remnants floating in the back of the eye. These usually settle after a few days.



What are the risks?

Laser capsulotomy is a surgical procedure, which is carried out without the need for an incision. All surgical procedures carry risks. In this case they are as follows:

The eye may be red afterwards due to localized bruising on the surface of the eye and inflammation within the eye.

Swelling at the back of the retina in the macula (macular oedema) may occur very rarely (<1:1000) This can usually be controlled with medication.

Retinal detachment may occur rarely (<1:1000) This may require surgery to correct. Be sure to report any flashing lights afterwards or curtains coming across the vision.

Sometimes the laser can dislodge the lens in the back of the eye, necessitating further surgery. Again this is very rare and dependent upon the type of lens implanted.

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I agree that this constitutes full disclosure, and that it supersedes any previous verbal or written disclosures. I certify that I have read, and fully understand, the above paragraphs, and that I have had sufficient opportunity for discussion and to ask questions. I consent to this procedure today and for all subsequent treatments.

Consent

I agree that this constitutes full disclosure, and that it supersedes any previous verbal or written disclosures. I certify that I have read, and fully understand, the above paragraphs, and that I have had sufficient opportunity for discussion and to ask questions. I consent to this procedure today and for all subsequent treatments.

Patient's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Doctor's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

