“Have my cataracts come back?”
(Posterior capsular opacification)
Information for patients
“Have my cataracts come back?”

If your vision was bright soon after surgery, but has become increasingly misty over a period of time, it does not mean that your cataracts have come back.

It could be that a membrane behind the implanted lens has become thicker and cloudy. This is called posterior capsular opacification (PCO). This happens fairly often and is something that can be easily treated.
Treatment

The treatment is simple and quick and is called Yag Laser Capsulotomy.

What are the risks?

• Dilating eye drops: these will blur the vision for 3-4 hours after the treatment.

• Floaters” (fragments of lens capsule) may appear across the vision. These usually become less noticeable with time.

• Swelling of the retina (macular oedema). This usually improves with time.

• On rare occasions the eye may become red and painful.

• There is a small risk of raised pressure in the eye.

• Increased risk of retinal detachment, especially if you are near sighted. This would require treatment.

• Small risk of vision becoming worse.

Sometimes a second treatment may be needed.
What does the treatment involve?

Yag laser treatment is done as an outpatient procedure. A nurse will test your vision and put some drops into your eye to dilate (open) the pupil.

The treatment is completely painless. An Ophthalmologist (specialist eye doctor) will put some local anaesthetic drops into your eye to numb it. You will be asked to sit still in front of a slit lamp. The doctor then puts a special contact lens onto the eye to focus the laser beam and carries out the treatment.

On average the treatment takes about 5-10 minutes to complete. However, there may be delays in clinic and you should allow at least 2 hours for your appointment.
What happens afterwards?

Normally only one treatment is required but occasionally you may be asked to come back for further treatment.

You will be free to go home after the treatment. The doctor may prescribe eye drops for you to take home. If you are unsure about putting in eye drops, please speak to you nurse.

Sometimes your vision is blurred for the next 3-4 hours. If you have no other eye problems your vision should return to the level it was after your cataract surgery.

**You are advised not to drive immediately after treatment** and you should make alternative arrangements for your journey home.
How to contact us

We hope you find this information leaflet helpful. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to telephone the Eye Hospital on:

Eye Outpatients: \( (01865) \ 231099 \)
Monday to Friday
0830 - 1700

Eye Emergency Department: \( (01865) \ 234800 \)
Monday to Friday
0800 - 1730
Further information

Please see our Ophthalmology (The Oxford Eye Hospital) page on the Trust website: http://www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/home.aspx
If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@orh.nhs.uk**.