

Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals **NHS**

NHS Trust

Oxford Eye Hospital

Yag Laser Treatment

Information for patients



What is a Yag laser treatment?

Laser treatment can be used to treat a number of eye conditions. A laser is a machine which gives out a highly concentrated beam of light. The laser is attached to a slit-lamp microscope, similar to that used when you are being examined in the clinic.

Yag laser treatment

This type of laser is used to cut (divide) membranes in the eye that have become thickened after cataract surgery – this happens fairly often and is easily treated. It is also used to treat certain types of glaucoma. The treatment is very effective for these conditions.

This is an outpatient treatment carried out by an ophthalmologist (a specialist eye doctor). You are likely to be in clinic for 1-2 hours. Sometimes there may be further delays due to emergency cases.

What are the risks and side effects?

Eye drops

- Dilating eye drops: these will blur the vision for 3-4 hours after the treatment.
- Constricting eye drops: these will reduce visual field for several hours afterwards.

The type of drops used depends upon the type of laser treatment being given.

- “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 near sighted. This would require treatment.
- Small risk of vision becoming worse.
- Sometimes a second treatment may be needed.

What does Yag laser treatment involve?

1. First of all the nurse will test your vision.
2. The nurse will then put drops into the eye to dilate (enlarge) or constrict (make smaller) the pupil. These usually take 30 to 40 minutes to work.
3. The doctor will then put anaesthetic drops into the eye to prevent any discomfort and will gently place a special contact lens on your eye to focus the laser beam. This may feel slightly strange but will not hurt.
4. The doctor will ask you to sit very still in front of the slit-lamp while the treatment is being carried out.
5. The treatment is painless and takes up to 10 minutes to carry out. You may feel dazzled for a while afterwards.

What happens afterwards?

After your treatment you are free to go home. If the laser has been used to treat glaucoma you may be required to have intensive eye drops for half an hour after the laser. This is done routinely to prevent inflammation.

The doctor may prescribe drops and tablets for you to take for up to 3 days after the treatment. We may ask you to make a follow-up clinic appointment.

You may find your vision is blurred for the next 3-4 hours. **You will be unable to drive after the treatment** and you should make alternative arrangements for your return journey home.

How to contact us

We hope you find this information leaflet helpful. However, 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**

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