

YAG laser peripheral iridotomy

(a treatment for glaucoma)

Information for patients, relatives and carers

What is a laser peripheral iridotomy?

Laser peripheral iridotomy is used either as a treatment for patients with angle-closure glaucoma, or to prevent angle-closure glaucoma in people who are at risk of developing it.

'Angle-closure' describes critical narrowing of the eye's drainage angle, causing the eye pressure to quickly rise to very high levels. This can rapidly damage the optic nerve and may cause a type of irreversible sight loss known as glaucoma.

This procedure works by using, laser energy to create a small hole in the iris (the coloured part at the front of the eye), which helps the drainage angle to open.

Why should I have this treatment?

The aim of this treatment is to prevent very high eye pressure caused by angle-closure, so reducing the risk of sight loss from glaucoma. If performed early in patients with narrow angles, the chance of successfully preventing angle-closure is between 66-75%. In more advanced cases, medications and/or surgery may also be required.

What to expect on the day

You may eat and drink as normal and take your usual eye medication. The treatment will be carried out in a laser room.

In preparation for the laser a nurse will instil some drops into your eye. A drop to protect against a rise in eye pressure, a numbing drop, and a drop to make the pupil smaller. This last drop may give you a headache and slightly blur the vision. We can give you paracetamol to ease any discomfort.

You will sit at a machine similar to the slit lamp used to examine your eyes in clinic but with a laser attached. The doctor will place a contact lens on your eye, so he / she can clearly see the iris and apply the laser. The treatment takes approximately 10 minutes per eye.

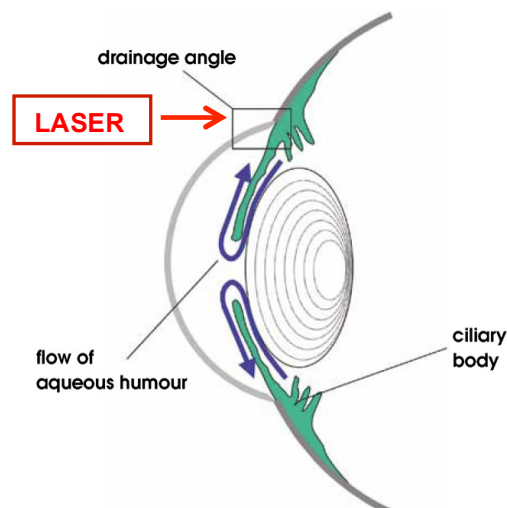
Half an hour after the procedure your eye pressure will be checked. You can return to work the next day.

What are the risks?

Complications are usually mild and include inflammation, bleeding from the iris, and sometimes an increase in eye pressure. If your eye pressure increases then you may need to stay with us longer while we give you additional treatment. It is also quite common to notice some floaters after the procedure.

It is natural for the eye to be a little red and sore and the vision to be altered for about six hours. Please do not worry as the drops you are given after the procedure will help control this. Please continue with your glaucoma eye drops unless instructed otherwise.

If you experience increasing redness, worsening pain or loss of vision for more than 24 hours, let us know.



Medication Card

1. DRUG:			
Dose	Freq	Route	Duration
2. DRUG:			
Dose	Freq	Route	Duration
3. DRUG:			
Dose	Freq	Route	Duration

Who do I contact for more information?

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the telephone numbers below:

Working hours (Mon-Fri 09.00 – 17.00):

Mr Ahmed's office: 020 8770 9197

Out of hours:

Western Eye Hospital casualty department

020 3312 3241