

YAG Laser Posterior Capsulotomy

Laser Treatment for Cloudy Vision After Cataract Surgery

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YAG laser posterior capsulotomy is used to correct cloudy vision that can sometimes return after cataract surgery.

About half of all people who have cataracts removed develop cloudy vision again. Although this condition is often called an “after-cataract,” a cataract is not the cause of it.

When a cataract is removed, the capsule of the affected lens is left in the eye. Months or years after cataract surgery, the capsule may become cloudy. If you have an after-cataract, you may notice the same vision problems as you had with your cataract.

The procedure is painless and does not require a hospital stay. As with all procedures, there are risks of complications (problems). Your eye care provider will discuss these risks with you.

Before the Procedure

- You may eat and drink as usual.
- Take all of your regular medicines.
- Arrange to have someone drive you home. Your eye will likely be dilated so you won't be able to drive.
- If possible, bring sunglasses to wear for the trip home after the procedure.
- Wear your regular clothes. You will not need to change your clothes for the procedure.

During the Procedure

- You will sit in a chair like in the doctor's office.
- The doctor will use a drop to numb the eye. He or she may use a lens to hold the eye open and focus the laser light.
- The doctor will direct a laser beam to make a tiny hole in the capsule of your affected eye to let light pass through.
- The procedure usually will not be painful and should take only a few minutes.

After the Procedure

- You may stay for up to 1 hour after the procedure so the doctor can measure your eye pressure.
- You should have clear vision within a couple of hours after the procedure.

**Information adapted from the
National Eye Institute of the
National Institutes of Health.**