

# YAG Posterior Capsulotomy

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This material will help you understand how your YAG posterior capsulotomy will improve your vision.

## **What is YAG posterior capsulotomy?**

YAG posterior capsulotomy is a laser treatment used to remove scar tissue from around your lens implant. Some call this scar tissue a “secondary cataract.” It is not a new cataract, but rather, scar tissue growing across your implanted lens. This can cause your vision to become blurry again – similar to before you had your original cataract surgery. This scar tissue can form months or years after your initial cataract surgery. Your YAG posterior capsulotomy will help you see clearly again.

## **What can I expect on the day of my YAG posterior capsulotomy?**

On the day of your procedure, you will come to the Kellogg Eye Center clinic. A technician will take a few measurements of your eyes and dilate your eye to prepare you for the laser. Your eye doctor will bring you back to the laser room.

You will sit at the laser slit lamp. (The laser slit lamp looks very similar to a regular slit lamp, like the ones you see in eye exam rooms.) Your eye doctor will make sure you are sitting in a comfortable position. Then, s/he will put numbing drops in your eye. S/he will use a special contact lens with gel on it to focus the laser energy onto the scar tissue behind your lens implant. It will take 5-15 minutes to laser the scar tissue off your implant. Most patients have no pain with the procedure.

Your eye doctor will check your eye pressure an hour after the procedure. If your eye pressure is normal, you are free to go home. If your eye pressure is too

high, your doctor will treat you with additional medications. After the procedure, you will take some anti-inflammatory eye drops for about one week. You may see some new floaters initially. These should settle down a lot by the time you wake up the next morning.

### **What can I expect after my YAG posterior capsulotomy?**

It will take 1-2 days to see as clearly as possible. Continue to use the anti-inflammatory drops. There are no restrictions on your activities. You can return to your normal routine the day after the procedure. You will come to clinic for a check-up one week later.

### **Are there complications after having the YAG posterior capsulotomy treatment?**

Your eye doctor will discuss all of the potential complications with you. The most common complication is a short-term increase in eye pressure, which your eye doctor would treat with extra eye drops. It is normal to have floaters that settle down in the days to week after the procedure. The floaters should not worsen after the first day. New floaters accompanied by flashes of light that look like lightening even when your eye is closed can be a sign of a retinal detachment. Retinal detachment is a very uncommon but serious complication. If your vision ever gets worse after any eye procedure or you experience those types of flashes or floaters, you need to contact your eye doctor's office for an urgent appointment. Even a retinal detachment can be repaired very successfully if treated early. If you call the clinic after clinic hours, you will be told how to get in touch with the eye doctor on call. There is an eye doctor on call every day of the year.

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