



YAG Laser Posterior Capsulotomy

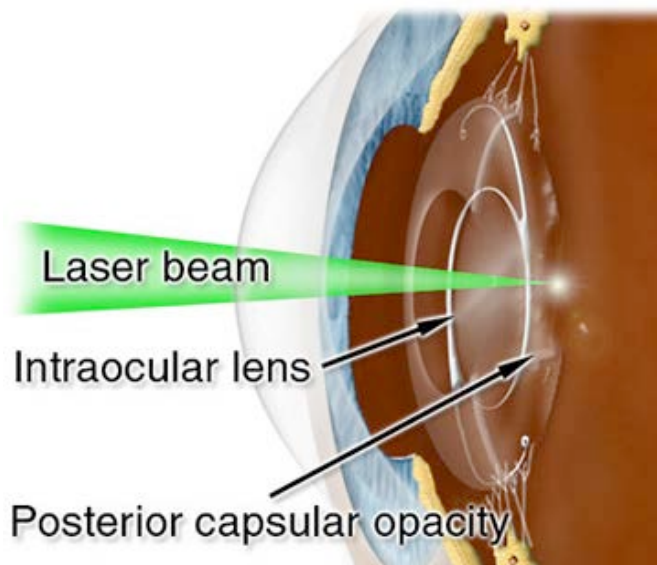
Who needs a posterior capsulotomy?

Patients who have previously had cataract surgery may develop blurred vision, glare, or haloes around lights. This usually occurs months to years after the cataract operation, but rarely is seen even within 6-8 weeks. Statistically about 30% of patients will develop this problem within 2-5 years after cataract removal.

What is a posterior capsule?

During cataract removal the posterior capsule, which is shaped much like an M&M, is opened from the front. The center of the cataract, or the “chocolate”, is then removed leaving the capsule. The implant or IOL is then placed into the capsule to hold it into position. This capsule is what later becomes cloudy causing blurry vision. The laser will open a hole in this capsule to clear the visual pathway.

YAG Laser Capsulotomy



POSTERIOR CAPSULE AND IMPLANT

REAL PHOTO: IMPLANT AND CLOUDY CAPSULE, BEFORE AND AFTER TREATMENT

Where is the capsulotomy surgery performed? Where do I check in?

At Medical Park Eye Center. You will come to the same location you do for your regular appointments.

What do I to do to prepare for the surgery?

We will give you a dilating drop to be used in your eye immediately before you come into the office. Please bring the bottle with you when you come. Otherwise, no other special preparation is needed. You may eat breakfast if you choose. You may want to bring a driver with you however as your vision may be blurred.

Over

Are there any restrictions after the laser capsulotomy?

Unlike cataract surgery, the laser used will not actually cut the eye, so there are no post-operative restrictions on bending, lifting or getting water in your eye. Except for some blurriness and minor scratchiness for a few hours, this surgery has almost no associated pain. You may use artificial tears afterwards for comfort.

What are the risks of posterior capsulotomy?

1. **Increased intraocular pressure** – This is usually transient and drops will be used before and after the laser treatment to reduce the likelihood of this being a problem.

2. **Retinal detachment** – Cataract surgery itself increases the risk of retinal detachment so it is difficult to say, when a retinal detachment does occur, whether it is caused by the cataract surgery or the posterior capsulotomy. Most ophthalmologists however believe that the capsulotomy treatment probably does increase the risk some. Studies suggest the rate may be 2-3%.

3. **Cystoid Macular Edema** – Drops will be provided for you to use 1-2 times a day for a week after the surgery, which almost eliminates this risk.

4. **Lens implant dislocation, lens implant damage, or endophthalmitis (infection in the eye)** – All of these are extremely rare.