

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Laser peripheral iridotomy

What is laser peripheral iridotomy?

Laser peripheral iridotomy creates a small hole in the iris (coloured part at the front of the eye) with a laser beam. This allows fluid to move freely within the eye which helps to open the drainage angle. This hole is not visible to the naked eye.

This procedure is used in the treatment of patients with angle-closure glaucoma, or as a preventative measure in people who are at risk of angle-closure glaucoma.

What to expect:

- This treatment is done as an outpatient procedure and normally takes approximately 15-30 minutes.
- On arrival, your vision and intraocular pressure will be measured.
- Before commencing treatment, the doctor will explain the procedure and ask you to sign a consent form.
- You will be given drops (pilocarpine) before the laser is carried out. Pilocarpine drops may cause a transient headache or cause your vision to seem darker and blurred. These effects are normal and temporary.
- Anaesthetic drops are placed into the eyes just before the procedure. These may cause minimal tingling or stinging sensation which last a few seconds.
- A contact lens is used to prevent your eye from closing and improve the doctor's view.
- It is important not to move and to keep still during your procedure.
- You will see some bright flashes of light, hear a clicking noise and may feel slight discomfort as the laser is fired into the sensitive tissue of the iris.
- Your vision may be dark or blurred for up to 30 minutes after your procedure. These effects are normal and temporary.
- Your eye pressure is measured approximately one hour after the laser treatment. If the pressure is high, you will be given tablets and/or drops to use for a few days.

Aftercare

Routinely, you will be prescribed a short course of steroid drops after your procedure. You should continue to use your normal glaucoma medication for both eyes unless specifically told not to.

Complications

The treatment is generally very safe. However, side effect include:

- Increased intraocular pressure. If this occurs, it is treated with medication.
- Inflammation. This can be treated with aftercare steroid drops.
- Bleeding from the laser hole (inside the eye) may occur, and you may notice misty vision. This usually settles within 24 hours. **Please tell us if you are taking warfarin and bring a list of your medications with you.**
- Changes in vision.
- Cataract formation.
- Retinal detachment.

Your eye specialist is happy to discuss the benefits and risks with you and can outline any alternative treatments available.

If you have any queries, or require further information please telephone 01623 622515, extension. 6654.

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

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