



## YAG Laser Peripheral Iridotomy

### Why do I need this treatment?

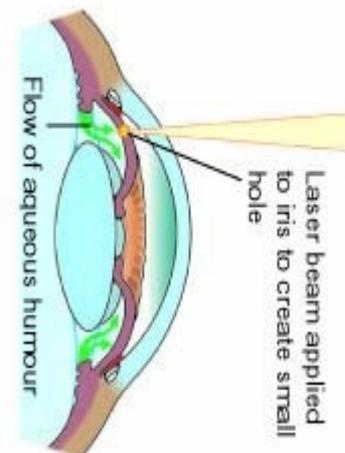
YAG laser iridotomy is performed to treat or prevent the development of angle closure glaucoma.

### What is Angle Closure Glaucoma?

- Angle closure glaucoma is one of many types of glaucoma in which the circulating fluid cannot pass freely out of the eye.
- This can lead to a painful eye and very high pressure within the eye.
- If the pressure remains high it can damage the optic nerve and lead to a permanent loss of sight.

### The Laser Treatment

- A small hole is created in the coloured part of the eye (the iris) using a laser beam. This hole is not normally visible to the naked eye.
- The iridotomy (the hole created by the laser) increases the area in which the fluid can circulate and this reduces the risk of high eye pressure.
- This procedure is performed to preserve vision and will not restore or improve your sight.



### Clinic Visit

- The Doctor will discuss with you if this laser treatment is required, the benefits and the risks associated with the procedure and you will also be asked to sign a consent form.

### Day of Laser treatment

- Your vision will be checked and drops will be put in your eyes to make the pupil small and help reduce the risk of the eye pressure rising after the laser.
- You will sit at a slit lamp microscope with your chin on the rest, just as you do at your usual eye clinic visit when the Doctor examines your eyes; the laser is attached to the slit lamp microscope.
- The Doctor will put anaesthetic eye drops into your eyes. This will allow a small lens to be placed on the front of your eye to keep it steady and focus the laser beam.

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- The treatment takes just a few minutes in each eye. You may see some flashing lights and hear the clicking of the laser. You may feel a little discomfort.
  - Your eye pressure will be measured up to 1 hour after the laser treatment and if satisfactory you may go home. Your vision may be disturbed for the rest of the day therefore you are strongly advised not to drive, otherwise your usual activities may be resumed.
  - If you have been prescribed glaucoma eye drops continue to use them at all times unless the Doctor specifically instructs you to stop.
  - If your Iris is very thick, It may be necessary to perform the laser treatment over more than one visit and/or pre-treat with another type of laser first.

### **Risks of the procedure**

- Complications are uncommon
- Raised eye pressure and some inflammation can occur shortly after treatment. The pressure will be measured and if high, you will be given eye drops, tablets or a small injection to treat this, you will have to remain in the clinic until the Doctor is satisfied your pressure is at a safe level.
- A tiny bleed in the area in front of the iris (coloured part of the eye).

### **Following Appointment**

You will be sent another clinic appointment to check that the small hole is still open and the eye pressure is satisfactory. Should you experience any problems or have any concerns after your laser treatment do not hesitate to call and speak to nursing staff in clinic.

**Contact Us: 8.30am - 5.30pm**

**Emergency number: 0121 424 2000 ask for Bleep no 2489 (Macular Nurse)**

	<b>Appointments:</b>	<b>Nurses:</b>
<b>Eye clinic Solihull</b>	<b>0121 424 4463</b>	<b>0121 424 4456</b>
<b>Eye clinic Heartlands</b>	<b>0121 424 0545</b>	<b>0121 424 1536</b>
<b>Eye clinic Good Hope</b>	<b>0121 424 9651</b>	<b>0121 424 9667</b>
<b>Eye clinic QEHB</b>	<b>0121 371 7070</b>	<b>0121 371 6476 / 6477</b>

**After 5pm and at weekends: Please Contact 0121 507 6780**

**After 7pm Monday to Friday and after 6pm Saturday/Sunday 0121 554 3801**

**Eye Emergency Department  
Birmingham & Midland Eye Centre  
City Hospital  
Western Road  
Birmingham B18 7QH**

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## **Accessibility**

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