



Understanding Cyclodiode or Cyclophotocoagulation Laser

This leaflet tells you about cyclodiode or cyclophotocoagulation laser therapy. It explains what is involved, and the common complications associated with this procedure. It is not meant to replace discussion between you and your doctor, but as a guide to be used in connection to what is discussed with your doctor.

What is Cyclodiode or Cyclophotocoagulation laser?

This is a laser procedure for the treatment of glaucoma. The ciliary body is a band of tissue in the front section of your eye that produces a clear fluid called aqueous. This tissue is treated with a laser to reduce the production of the fluid and by this, lower the pressure inside your eye.

The consultant will explain the procedure to you and you will be asked for your written consent before the procedure takes place. Please ask our staff any questions you may have regarding your treatment.

What happens on the day of the procedure?

Cyclodiode laser is performed in the operating theatre so you will be given an operation date and arrival time.

After arriving at the ward, you will be checked in by a member of the nursing team. You will also have an opportunity to discuss the procedure further with a member of the medical team.

The ward staff will get you ready for theatre and you will be taken to the anaesthetic room. Typically the laser is performed under local anaesthetic whilst you are lying on a bed. Your eye will be held open by a small clip. The anaesthetist commonly uses a blunt needle to fill the tissues around the eye with local anaesthetic. This is a very effective anaesthetic that works for several hours. While you may feel some pressure around your eye when the anaesthetic is being given, this then makes the cyclodiode laser procedure painless.

The laser is performed using a pen like device that is held against the side of the eye. The procedure itself takes around 10-20 minutes to perform. The eye is covered with a patch after the procedure to protect it until the anaesthetic wears off. Typically, you will go home the same day with an appointment to return for review in clinic. Your vision will return as the anaesthesia wears off but your eye may feel a little sore. If you are experiencing more than regular soreness, you can take some regular pain relief that suits you (your doctor can advise you on this if you are unsure).

Information for Patients

Immediately after the procedure

You will be started on eye drops to dilate your pupil and reduce inflammation (swelling and redness) and given a supply to take home. You will have an eye pad covering your eye for the rest of the day, after this you should remove the pad and begin to use the eye drops in the treated eye as instructed.

Please have a supply of your usual painkillers to take for any discomfort you may experience when the anaesthetic wears off. You will experience some changes to your vision; this is normal and is due to the eye drops. You should arrange for transport home after the laser procedure.

After the laser treatment

You should be able to resume most of your usual activities the following day; however your vision will change in the treated eye so please discuss this with your doctor before you leave.

Continue to use the eye drops you are given as instructed until you return to the clinic. If you were using eye drops before the laser procedure you should continue to do so unless your doctor instructs you otherwise.

An outpatient's appointment will be organised for you to return to clinic after one week when the doctor will check your eye pressure and the inflammation. Many patients require more than a single laser session. If you need further laser sessions your doctor will discuss this with you.

What are the benefits of this treatment?

The benefit of cyclodiode laser is to reduce the eye pressure in situations when the eye pressure is too high and causing damage to the optic nerve or causing you significant eye pain. The full effect of the laser can take weeks to become apparent. You can continue with your usual drops and medication afterwards and we will advise you if they can be reduced or stopped.

Will the laser improve my vision?

The purpose of this procedure is **not** to improve your vision but to reduce the eye pressure, which should help preserve the vision you currently have or reduce eye pain.

What are the risks associated with this treatment?

The common risks of cyclodiode laser are that the eye can become red and sore afterwards. This is usually due to inflammation caused by the laser and can be controlled with anti-inflammatory eye drops. Occasionally antibiotic eye drops are also prescribed to reduce the risk of infection. As the laser is applied externally to the surface of the eye there is very little risk of infection within the eye itself. You will be seen in clinic after the laser to assess its effect on eye pressure.

Information for Patients

Sometimes the laser can lower the pressure too much. The amount of pressure lowering and how long the reduction in pressure lasts can vary between patients. If there is an inadequate pressure reduction, or if the pressure rises again with time, it is possible to repeat the procedure. Very rarely, the laser can cause severe bleeding or loss of vision which may be permanent.

What are the alternatives to laser treatment?

Non surgical treatment methods may have already been tried and failed. Your doctor would not have suggested laser treatment unless they believed it was the best course of treatment for you. If you are concerned about having the procedure, or have any further queries, please speak to your consultant.

Contact Us:

If you have any questions, or are worried about your condition you can contact us Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30am – 5:00pm by telephoning:

Sister Atkins

Solihull Ophthalmology Department 0121 424 4463

Sister Waller

Heartlands Ophthalmology Department 0121 424 0543

If neither is available please speak with the other members of the nursing team regarding your concerns. Alternatively you can contact:

Contact Us: 8.30am - 5.30pm

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

Eye clinic Solihull 0121 424 4094
Eye clinic Heartlands 0121 424 0543
Eye clinic Good Hope 0121 424 9608
Eye clinic QEHB 0121 371 6476 / 6477

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**

Information for Patients

Eye Casualty

Birmingham & Midlands Eye Centre (Eye Casualty) 0121 507 6780

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