

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

YAG LASER CAPSULOTOMY



Quality surgery in the community

When can I safely drive after YAG capsulotomy?

You are safe to drive after YAG capsulotomy as soon as your vision meets the standards of vision for driving (refer to website <https://www.gov.uk/driving-eyesight-rules>)

This would depend upon;

1. The vision in the other eye
2. The effect of dilating drops used for the treatment that can cause blurred vision lasting for up to 8-12 hours after treatment.
3. The extent of visual improvement in the treated eye.
4. The appearance of floaters that are very common in the treated eye. Whilst some people experience none and some can see them for a few weeks after treatment, in a majority of people they usually disappear a few days after treatment.

If I have the procedure early in the morning will I be able to drive later that day or should I wait till the following day?

As far as your vision meets the standards of vision for driving (refer to website <https://www.gov.uk/driving-eyesight-rules>), you should be able to drive as soon as you are comfortable to do so, it is probably best to wait until the following day to allow the eye to settle.

I am having YAG capsulotomy on Wednesday but am planning a long drive at the weekend. Will this be OK?

As far as your vision meets the standards of vision for driving (refer to website <https://www.gov.uk/driving-eyesight-rules>), you should be able to drive as soon as you are comfortable to do so.

The doctor will inform you if there are any return visits required and will provide you with some anti-inflammatory drops after the procedure that need to be used for a week after treatment in most cases.

When can I safely fly following YAG capsulotomy?

There are no contra-indications to flying after YAG capsulotomy.

The doctor will inform you if there are any return visits required and will provide you with some anti-inflammatory drops after the procedure that need to be used for a week after treatment in most cases.

I am thinking of booking a holiday abroad – would it be better for me to wait until after my holiday before booking my appointment?

If you are reasonably happy with your vision, it might be advisable to wait until after your holiday before booking the appointment in case of any return visits required occasionally after treatment.

If I have YAG capsulotomy and then go on holiday what will I do if I have problems afterwards?

It is advisable to contact the local eye clinic if you are concerned about pain, red eye, flashing lights, or a constant shadow in the vision.

Should I inform my insurance company that I have had YAG capsulotomy? Will my travel insurance cover me?

It is always best that you update and inform the relevant Insurance Company about the YAG capsulotomy before you travel. This will help clarify matters specific to your Insurance company well in time before your travel

After having YAG capsulotomy can I go home on the bus?

After having YAG capsulotomy you can take the bus provided you are able to see well enough with your other eye. This is because the treated eye could be blurred for a few hours and may take up to a few days to settle.

After having YAG capsulotomy is it safe for me to walk home?

After having YAG capsulotomy it is safe for you to walk home provided you are able to see well enough with your other eye. This is because the treated eye could be blurred for a few hours and may take up to a few days to settle.

Should I have someone with me when I have YAG capsulotomy?

It is always recommended to have someone with you if possible when you have YAG capsulotomy as the vision in the treated eye could be blurred for a few hours after treatment.

NB: you will not be able to have anyone (spouse/partner/carer) accompany you into the practice whilst the COVID-19 precautions are in place. If someone brings you in a car they can drop you off in the basement car-park but they are not allowed to wait for you there.

Can I wash my hair/ take a shower/go swimming after YAG capsulotomy?

There are no contra-indications to hair washing/showering/swimming after YAG capsulotomy.

Should I make sure I am not wearing eye make-up before my procedure? When can I start wearing make up again?

Eye make-up is best avoided before treatment as we are required to use a contact lens on the surface of the eye as part of the procedure.

You can start wearing eye make up the day after the procedure unless you are advised otherwise.

When can I do activities such as gardening after YAG capsulotomy?

It is advisable to allow the eye to settle after YAG capsulotomy although gentle activities including gardening are not entirely contra-indicated.

How often should I take my prescribed eye drops?

The anti-inflammatory drops after YAG capsulotomy are usually prescribed three times a day for a week. Your doctor will inform you of any other drops or tablets you are likely to need or if the drops need to go in more often or for longer than the usual time.

What happens if I run out of my prescribed eye drops? Can I get another prescription and if so, would that be from N2S or my GP.

The drops would usually last for the prescribed period of a week and for up to a month if need be. If you do need another prescription, it is advisable to contact your GP in the first instance. If you experience any difficulty with this, you are welcome to contact N2S for advice/eye drops.

Why do I have to wait 4 weeks to have my second eye done?

There are certain risks, although uncommon, associated with YAG capsulotomy as mentioned in the information leaflet. It is advisable to allow time for the first eye to settle before undertaking treatment to the second eye.

Floaters, although transient, are very common after treatment, risks such as retinal detachment and cystoid macular oedema are less common.

I had YAG capsulotomy yesterday but my eye is blurry and feels like there is a film over the eye? Is that something to worry about?

It is common to have floaters and/or a film over the eye after YAG capsulotomy. This results from the debris caused after laser treatment. This usually slowly resolves in a few days to few weeks after treatment.

I can see lots of floaters even though I had YAG capsulotomy a couple of weeks ago – is that normal?

Floaters are common after YAG capsulotomy. These can vary from a single to many floaters, and results from the debris caused after laser treatment. Whilst some people experience none and some can see them for a few weeks after treatment, in a majority of people they usually disappear a few days after treatment. Eventually all floaters resolve.

My eye is red and itchy and keeps watering. What should I do?

It is advisable to contact us if your eye is red and itchy and keeps watering soon after or a few days after YAG capsulotomy.

When should I go and see my optician following YAG capsulotomy?

It is advisable to see the Optician a month after YAG capsulotomy if updated glasses are due after treatment. If both eyes need treatment this is one month after the second eye is treated.

If you have just had updated glasses only recently, YAG capsulotomy usually does not change the prescription.

Will the optician test my eyes again?

Your optician may wish to test your eye again if updated glasses had been deferred until after the YAG capsulotomy.

Will I still need to wear spectacles once I have had YAG capsulotomy?

YAG capsulotomy does not usually influence a previous prescription. If you did not need glasses before treatment, then you are not likely to need glasses after.

Once I have had YAG capsulotomy will I ever have to have it done again?

Although it is highly unlikely, it is possible to have to have YAG capsulotomy again.