

YAG PIs (peripheral iridotomies)



What are YAG Peripheral Iridotomies?

A YAG Peripheral Iridotomy is when a YAG laser machine is used to make a tiny opening in your iris to allow fluid to flow from behind the iris into the front chamber of your eye.

Why do I need it?

Your eye doctor has examined you and found that there is not enough space for the inflating fluid (called aqueous humour) inside your eye to flow freely. This fluid can build up and cause you to lose your sight due to sustained high pressure in your eye. If this happens slowly and painlessly it is called **chronic angle closure glaucoma**. When it happens suddenly and painfully it is called **acute angle closure glaucoma**. A peripheral iridotomy will make a tiny "release valve" to significantly reduce your risk of developing both of these conditions.

Are there any alternatives?

A possible alternative to prevent angle closure glaucoma is to remove and replace your entire lens, in the same way that we remove a cataract. This carries more risks than YAG Peripheral Iridotomy but can be effective. If you need further information on possible alternatives (including the consequences of no treatment) please discuss with your surgeon.

How do I prepare for it?

You should not drive to your operation, because the procedure can temporarily affect the vision. You will need to be re-examined an hour after the procedure to ensure that the pressure is controlled. Therefore **please allow up to 2 hours** for your appointment.

What does the treatment involve?

The treatment takes around 15 minutes, and you will have eye drops before the procedure to numb your eye.

You will sit and rest your chin on an instrument similar to that used to examine the eye. A contact lens is placed on your eye to steady it and focus the laser beam. You will see some bright flashes of light, hear a clicking noise and may feel slight discomfort. It is usual that both eyes are treated as in most patients the acute glaucoma risk is similar in both eyes.

Are there any possible risks or complications?

Complications are uncommon. The most common complications are a rise in pressure and some inflammation shortly after the treatment. This is usually treated with extra drops or tablets, or in some cases an injection.

What happens afterwards?

Your eye may become pink and sore and the vision is often disturbed for the rest of the day. For this reason you are strongly advised **not to drive home**. Apart from driving, you can resume normal activities immediately. You will be prescribed additional medication for a few days to prevent inflammation and a rise in pressure as necessary.

Continue to use all your anti-glaucoma medication unless specifically instructed otherwise.

Will I need any follow up?

An appointment will be made for a check up in the eye clinic 2-4 weeks after your procedure.

Will the procedure need to be repeated?

Occasionally patients will require more than one laser procedure.

When can I return to work?

This will vary depending on the type of work you do, however most people can return to work the day after the procedure.

If you experience any of the following:

- severe pain
- sudden loss of vision
- discharge.

please contact the Eye department on **01872 253788**

Or phone the hospital switchboard on **01872 250000** and ask for the Eye Emergency department.

Drops	Eye	Frequency	Duration
		times a day	

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690

