

Advice regarding YAG laser iridotomy

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YAG laser may be used to create a small opening in the iris (which is the coloured part of the eye). In simple terms, this creates improved flow of fluids inside the eye and reduces chances of sudden rise in eye pressure called acute glaucoma. Acute glaucoma is a serious condition which can cause permanent loss of sight within 48 hours if left untreated.

There are no special preparations before eye laser treatment. You should eat normally and take your regularly prescribed medications before surgery.

Nd-YAG laser iridotomy (laser surgery to make a hole in the iris) is performed in the consulting room or a special laser room.

Eye drops will be given to dilate the pupil and numb the eye. The treatment is performed while you are seated in a chair, similar to the one used for regular eye examinations. You will remain awake and comfortable.

Treatment is usually painless but some patients can have mild discomfort.

The treatment generally takes 5 to 10 minutes after starting the procedure.

Most patients notice no vision changes following their laser surgery, although there may be some temporary blurring for a few days or weeks. Some patients may have a gritty sensation in the eyes for a few days which usually settles down with drops.

It will take several weeks to months before we can tell whether the laser surgery has been successful.

Post operative medications are usually required. These include drops and occasionally tablets for a few days after the laser treatment.

There are virtually no restrictions following laser surgery, and you should be able to resume your normal activities and work schedule the following day.

If the pressure becomes high you may experience, eye pain and redness with decreased vision. The YAG iridotomy is to try and reduce the chances of such a pressure rise. If the treatment is successful the chances of a pressure rise are reduced but not to zero. You can still have an episode of raised pressure in the eye called acute glaucoma. If this happens please contact the closest ophthalmic eye casualty to start immediate treatment.

Disclaimer: This information leaflet is produced to help increase awareness in patients undergoing laser treatments. It is not intended to replace professional medical advice or to provide advice in any special individual circumstance. Please seek expert medical advice regarding your specific medical condition.