

YAG Capsulotomy

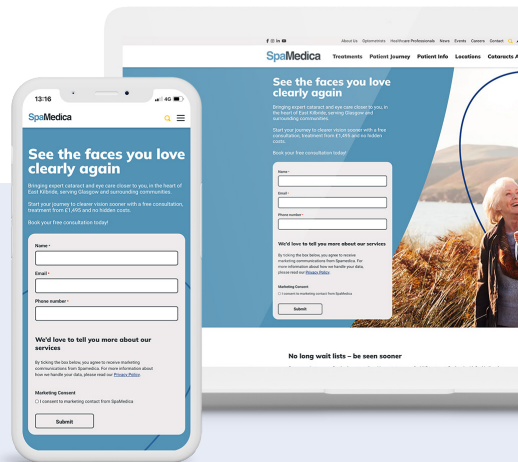
Information booklet
for patients



Contents

About YAG capsulotomy	3
Why YAG capsulotomy?	4
Your YAG assessment	5
The procedure	6
After the treatment	7
Risks of YAG capsulotomy	8
Immediate help	10
Feedback & complaints	11

More information is available on our website at spamedica.co.uk/scotland

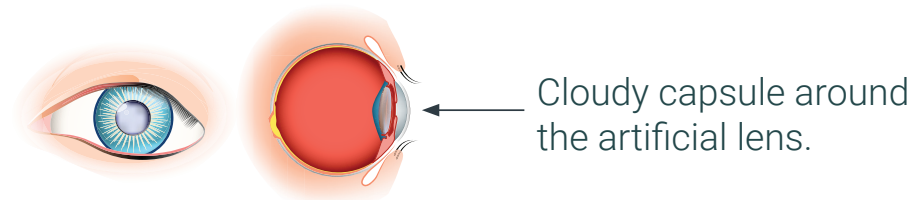


About YAG Capsulotomy

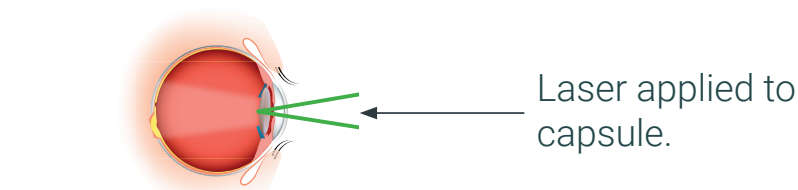
The posterior capsule is the fine membrane behind the lens of the eye. This capsule is left in the eye following cataract surgery, to support the artificial lens implant.

In approximately 30% of cataract patients, the transparent membrane becomes thickened. This causes a gradual reduction in vision. This thickening can occur months or even years after surgery. If thickening of the capsule does occur, a YAG laser capsulotomy is required to improve the eyesight. YAG stands for Yttrium, Aluminium and Garnet crystals, which generate the laser.

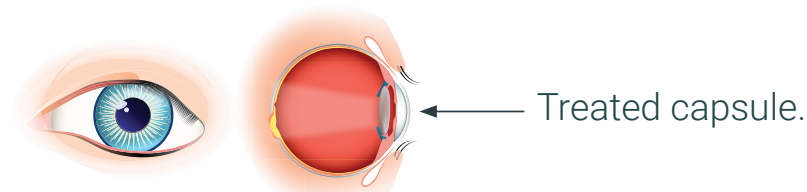
Pre-YAG Procedure



During YAG Procedure



Post- YAG Procedure



Why YAG Capsulotomy?

Sometimes, the clouding of the posterior capsule can be very dense. This clouding does not harm the eye, but it can affect vision to the same extent as the original cataract.

If vision is impaired, a YAG capsulotomy should be performed. The YAG capsulotomy will reduce glare and restore the vision to how it was after the original cataract surgery.

YAG capsulotomy is a safe, non-invasive procedure, and serious complications are rare.

Patients who had their cataract surgery with us can receive YAG laser treatment **completely free** within the first year after their surgery.



Your YAG assessment

At this appointment, our clinical team will test your vision and check the eye pressure.

Drops to dilate the pupils will be put into both eyes before the clinician's examination. Please note that these drops will make your vision blurry for about 4 hours, therefore you will need someone to drive you home after this appointment.

You will have the opportunity to raise any queries or concerns with members of the clinical team during your appointment.

At your appointment, you will be seen by a clinician for your eye examination. If YAG laser treatment is appropriate and you are happy to proceed, your treatment can usually be carried out on the same day as your assessment.

In some circumstances, it may not be possible or appropriate to proceed with treatment on the same day. If this applies, your clinician will discuss this with you and arrange a suitable alternative appointment if required.

YAG laser treatment can often be performed on both eyes during the same visit. Your consultant will review your individual circumstances and discuss the most appropriate treatment plan with you during your consultation.

The Procedure

The procedure is performed with a laser machine connected to a conventional slit lamp (microscope).

A contact lens may be placed on the eye to focus the laser beam and keep the eye open. Anaesthetic drops are instilled prior to treatment.

The procedure lasts approximately 5-10 minutes, during which time you will hear beeping noises and experience bright lights. There is minimal discomfort.



After the treatment

Your vision will be blurred immediately after the YAG laser treatment, but it should improve over the following few hours.

- Commonly, you may notice 'floaters' in the eye, but these tend to settle within the first 2 weeks
- If you experience a sudden shower of 'floaters', flashes of light in the eye or the feeling of a curtain coming over your vision, you should contact SpaMedica on the number - 0161 838 0883 - as this may indicate retinal detachment
- You should also contact SpaMedica if you experience severe pain or loss of vision after treatment
- Certain patients will require follow-up appointments in the outpatient clinic. Before you leave, the laser operator will advise whether another appointment is needed
- You may resume driving the following day
- You may need to visit the optician a week after the procedure

Risks of YAG Capsulotomy

As with any medical procedure, laser treatment has its risks. An improvement in eyesight cannot be guaranteed. However, serious complications are rare. Risks of a YAG capsulotomy include:

- Retinal detachment - the retina, which is the inner lining of the eye, can become detached. If left untreated, this can lead to reduced or complete loss of eyesight. However, if detected early, it can usually be successfully treated. The incidence of retinal detachment is rare
- Macular oedema - the retina can become swollen, causing blurry vision. This can be treated medically, but can take many weeks to improve. The chance of macular oedema after YAG capsulotomy is generally rare, but is slightly more common in diabetics

- The procedure may cause transient elevation in intraocular pressure. This can usually be medically treated
- Rarely, the lens of the eye may be damaged by the YAG laser, causing visual problems. In exceptional circumstances, the lens may dislocate or subsequently need to be changed
- Very rarely, additional medical or laser treatment may be needed after the YAG capsulotomy procedure to obtain the best vision



How to contact us

General enquiries

For non-urgent questions relating to your surgery, contact us for:

- Appointment information
- Questions about your treatment

Tel:

01355 640500

Mon to Fri, 9am - 5pm

Email:

**referrals.scotland@
spamedica.co.uk**

Emergency help

Call us ***immediately*** if you experience any of these symptoms:

- Extreme pain
- A severe persistent frontal headache with nausea and vomiting (even after paracetamol)
- A progressive deterioration of vision, or loss of vision

Tel:

0161 838 0883

24 hours a day,
365 days per year

Feedback and complaints

At SpaMedica, we always listen to our patients and we value your feedback.

If you are not happy with the service you have received, please speak to a member of staff with any concerns or write to us at the address below.

*Address: **SpaMedica, 43 Churchgate, Bolton, BL1 1HU***



Scan the QR code or visit
spamedica.co.uk/scotland
to find out more about
cataract surgery



Contact us

Call us on the below number for general enquiries:

Tel: **01355 640500** (Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm)

Email: **referrals.scotland@spamedica.co.uk**

www.spamedica.co.uk/scotland