

Minor complications can include:

- damage to the intra-ocular lens implant, which does not affect vision; and
- raised pressure within the eye.

Rare potential complications include:

- displacement of or damage to the implant;
- fluid at the back of the eye (macular oedema). This is quite rare and causes loss of central vision that usually clears in time; and
- delay in visual recovery. Vision usually improves in 24 hours but in rare cases can take a few weeks.

If you have any problems such as a sudden deterioration or change in vision, or severe pain in the eye, please telephone the hospital switchboard on **01473 712233** and ask to speak to the **Eye Clinic coordinator** (Monday–Friday, 8.30 am–5.30 pm, excluding bank holidays) or the **eye doctor on call** (evenings, weekends and bank holidays).

Produced by:

The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust

Heath Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 5PD

Hospital switchboard: 01473 712233

www.ipswichhospital.nhs.uk

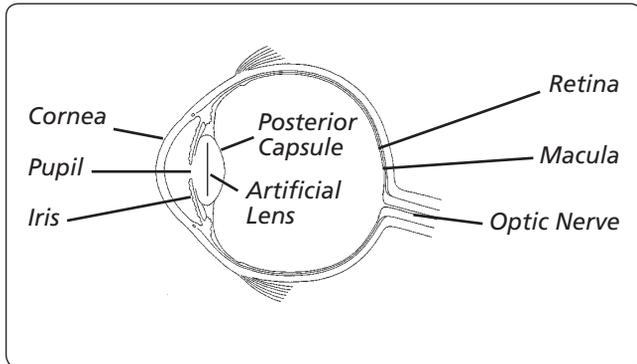
Laser Capsulotomy

Ophthalmology Department
See inside for contact details

Issue 8: March 2018 Review date: February 2021
© The Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust, 2001-2018. All rights reserved. Not to be reproduced in whole, or in part, without the permission of the copyright owner.

What is laser capsulotomy?

Laser capsulotomy simply means making a hole in the posterior capsule of the lens using a special type of laser.



Why is a laser capsulotomy necessary?

The natural lens of the eye is enclosed in a capsule like a thin elastic membrane. During cataract surgery most of the lens is removed except the back membrane or 'posterior capsule'. It is necessary to leave this in place as it holds the artificial lens, or implant, in position. It is fairly common for the posterior capsule to become thick and opaque and this causes the vision to deteriorate. This usually happens a few years after the original surgery. Making an opening in the thickened capsule enables light to reach the back of the eye (the retina) and improve vision.

What does the procedure involve?

The procedure is carried out in the Eye Clinic. You will be asked to sign a consent form before the treatment is carried out. Your vision is checked and drops are put in your eye to dilate (enlarge) the pupil.

Local anaesthetic drops are then put in your eye and a special type of contact lens is placed on your eye to direct the beam of light from the laser. The laser looks similar to the microscopes you will have been examined with in the clinic previously. It is important that you keep your head as still as possible – the procedure only takes a few minutes.

What happens afterwards?

There are no special precautions – you will not need any eye drops.

Your vision may be misty at first, and patients may experience floaters afterwards that quickly settle. Usually there is no follow-up required.

Are there any complications?

Laser capsulotomy is a procedure that is often performed and complications are rare.

