

Patient information

Laser Peripheral Iridoplasty

Ophthalmology Department - Aintree Hospital

Who is this leaflet for?

Patients with glaucoma or raised eye pressure who are having argon laser peripheral iridoplasty.

What is Laser Peripheral Iridoplasty?

A laser procedure targeted at the iris, which is the coloured part of the eye.

Laser What?

Laser, as it is done by laser light.

Peripheral, as in on the edge of the iris, where it joins the white of the eye.

Irido: iris, and –plasty, meaning to mold.

Why do I need it?

- The drain of the eye is blocked by the iris.
- The laser treatment can lower the eye pressure and/ or prevent it from going up.
- If it works, you may avoid eye drops.
- If you already use eye drops, then successful laser would mean that more eye drops or surgery are not needed.

Can all glaucoma patients have this laser?

No. You have to have 'narrow angles'. The angle refers to the drain of the eye.

I only have high pressure in my eyes, not glaucoma. Am I suitable for treatment with this laser?

Yes. The idea is to prevent you from getting glaucoma.

What is the benefit of Laser Peripheral Iridoplasty?

To lower the pressure inside your eye(s) and/ or to prevent the pressure going up.

How does it work?

- The laser causes contraction of the iris, drawing the iris away from the eye drain.
- This opens up the drain, allowing it to drain the fluid from the eye.
- This then lowers the pressure and/ or prevents the pressure from going up.

What are the alternatives to laser?

- There are three ways to lower the pressure inside the eye on a long-term basis: eye drops, lasers and operations.
- You may already be using eye drops, but they did not work well enough, or you are getting unpleasant side-effects.
- Generally, an operation is reserved for patients in whom eye drops and lasers have not worked or are not appropriate.
- If you have a large natural lens or a cataract, your eye surgeon may offer you cataract surgery instead of the laser.

What will happen if I decide not to have laser?

Then your eye surgeon will recommend eye drops/ more eye drops to lower the pressure in your eye, or an operation to achieve the same effect.

Is the laser guaranteed to work?

No. If it does not work, your eye surgeon may recommend eye drops, cataract surgery, or glaucoma surgery.

What happens on laser day?

- You will have an outpatient appointment.
- You will receive some eye drops. These numb the eye and make the laser easier. Sometimes, these drops give you a headache. If it is bad, ask for painkillers.
- The laser machine looks similar to the machine you are usually examined with at your appointments.
- We put a contact lens on the eye. This focuses the laser, keeps the eye still and open. You continue to blink normally.
- You will be asked to look at a target to help keep your eyes still.
- The procedure takes about two minutes per eye, with up to 40 shots per eye.
- Your doctor will decide whether you have one or both eyes treated.

What does it feel like?

Patients' experiences vary hugely: some say it feels like an ache.

Most people say it does not hurt. Some people find that the eye becomes sore towards the end of the treatment.

Tell us if it is sore, as we can change the settings on the machine accordingly.

What about my medication?

Take all medication and regular eye drops as normal on the day of laser treatment.

Your doctor may decide to stop any glaucoma eye drops once you have had laser. You will be told if this is the case.

What are the risks and possible complications of surgery?

- Inflammation. The eyes can become red and sore for the first few days. You will be prescribed some steroid drops for a week following laser to prevent this.
- High pressure. The pressure can shoot up after laser, so we check you after an hour. High pressure settles down over 24 hours with some extra drops or tablets.
- Failure. Some people's eye pressure does not change at all following the laser procedure. If this happens, your surgeon will recommend eye drops or an operation.
- Blindness. It is possible to lose your sight with this laser, but this is extremely rare.
- Further treatment if this does not work.

What happens after the laser?

We check the pressure in the eye after about an hour. After this, you can go, taking your steroid drops with you.

You will have a check-up in a few weeks.

Post operative Instructions: Laser Peripheral Iridoplasty

There are no 'Dos or Don'ts' following laser peripheral iridotomy. Carry on with all your normal daily activities including work.

What should I expect after laser?

After the laser, you may feel that the sight is altered slightly for the rest of the day.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

If you have any questions or concerns?

In an emergency:

Tel: 0151 525 5980

Secretary for Mr. Dubois and Mrs Bhargava:

Tel: 0151 529 0147

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Review Date May 2026**

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