

Ophthalmology department

Peripheral iridotomy laser (a treatment for glaucoma)

Information for patients, relatives and carers

Introduction

This leaflet has been designed to give you information about **peripheral iridotomy** and answer some of the questions that you or those who care for you may have. It is not meant to replace the discussion between you and your medical team but aims to help you understand more about what is discussed. If you have any questions about the information below, please contact us.

What is a peripheral iridotomy laser?

Laser peripheral iridotomy is used either as a treatment for patients with angle-closure glaucoma, or to prevent angle-closure glaucoma in people who are at risk of developing it.

Angle-closure describes critical narrowing of the eye's drainage angle, causing the eye pressure to quickly rise to very high levels. This can rapidly damage the optic nerve and may cause a type of irreversible sight loss known as glaucoma.

This procedure works by using laser energy to create a small hole in the iris (the coloured part at the front of the eye), which helps the drainage angle to open.

Why should I have this treatment?

The aim of this treatment is to prevent very high eye pressure caused by angle-closure, so reducing the risk of sight loss from glaucoma. If performed early in patients with narrow angles, the chance of successfully preventing angle-closure is between 66 to 75 per cent. In more advanced cases, medications and/or surgery may also be required.

What to expect on the day?

You may eat and drink as normal and take your usual eye medication. Please be prepared to be in our care for half a day. The treatment will be carried out in one of our laser rooms next to the emergency department.

When you are settled in the laser room drops will be put into your eye. A drop to protect against a rise in eye pressure. A numbing drop, and a drop to make the pupil smaller. This last drop may give you a headache and slightly blur the vision. We can give you paracetamol to ease any discomfort.

You will be asked to sit at a machine like the slit lamp used to examine your eyes in clinic – but with a laser attached. The doctor will place a contact lens on your eye, so they can clearly see the iris and apply the laser. The treatment takes approximately 15 minutes per eye.

Half an hour after the procedure your doctor will check the pressure in your eye. You can return to work the next day or carry on with your usual activities.

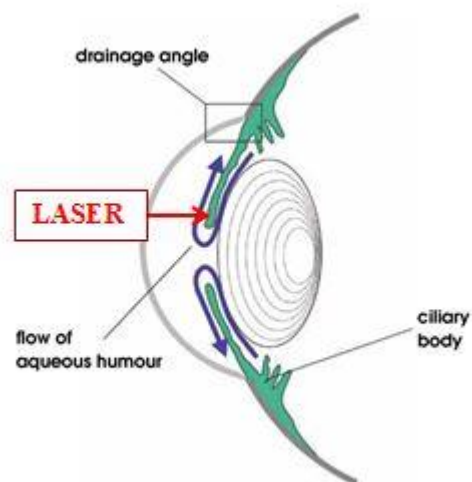
What are the risks?

Complications are usually mild and include inflammation, bleeding from the iris, and sometimes an increase in eye pressure. If your eye pressure increases, then you may need to stay with us longer while we give you additional treatment. It is also quite common to notice some floaters after the procedure.

It is natural for the eye to be a little red and sore and the vision to be altered for about six hours. Please do not worry as the drops you are given after the procedure will help control this. Please continue with your glaucoma eye drops unless instructed otherwise.

If you experience increasing redness, worsening pain or loss of vision for more than 24 hours, let us know.

We will see you again at a two-week review. We will know then if the procedure was successful.



Medication card

1. DRUG:		
Dose	Frequency	Route
2. DRUG:		
Dose	Frequency	Route
3. DRUG:		
Dose	Frequency	Route

Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the telephone numbers:

Glaucoma liaison officer: 0203 312 9701 – **Monday to Friday, 09.00 to 17.00**

- Emergency Department at Western Eye Hospital – 020 3312 3245
- Outpatients at Western Eye Hospital – 020 3312 3236
- Outpatients at Charing Cross Hospital – 020 3311 1109/ 1233/ 0137

How do I make a comment about my visit?

We aim to provide the best possible service and staff will be happy to answer any of the questions you may have. If you have any **suggestions** or **comments** about your visit, please either speak to a member of staff or contact the patient advice and liaison service (**PALS**) on **020 3313 0088** (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea hospitals), or **020 3312 7777** (St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals). You can also email PALS at imperial.pals@nhs.net The PALS team will listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries and is often able to help solve problems on your behalf.

Alternatively, you may wish to complain by contacting our complaints department:

Complaints department, fourth floor, Salton House, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street
London W2 1NY

Email: ICHC-tr.Complaints@nhs.net

Telephone: **020 3312 1337 / 1349**

Alternative formats

This leaflet can be provided on request in large print or easy read, as a sound recording, in Braille or in alternative languages. Please email the communications team:
imperial.communications@nhs.net

Wi-fi

Wi-fi is available at our Trust. For more information visit our website: www.imperial.nhs.uk

Department of ophthalmology
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