LOTUS VISION

67821

YAG Laser Posterior Capsulotomy

OVERVIEW

A posterior capsulotomy is a noninvasive laser procedure to eliminate the cloudiness that interferes with a patient's vision after cataract surgery. It occurs commonly after cataract surgery, months to years later. There is no way to prevent its occurrence. In cataract surgery, the cloudy lens is removed, but a thin membrane that held the cataract may become cloudy over time. This can be resolved with a quick in-office laser procedure. There is no pre-operative preparation, you can eat and drink as normal.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The procedure is performed in the office and drops will be used to numb and dilate your pupil. No injections or needles are used. When your pupil is dilated, you will be positioned behind the laser and the short procedure will begin. Your doctor will use a YAG laser to create an opening in the center of the cloudy capsule. The opening allows clear passage of the light rays and eliminates the cloudiness that was interfering with your vision. The entire process takes less than 5 minutes but plan to be in the office about an hour. Your vision may be blurry for 3-4 hours from the drops so you may need a driver. Most patients resume normal activities immediately after dilation. Avoid rubbing your eyes and keep your head dry for 48 hours. Anti-inflammatory drops will be prescribed post-surgery for a week to reduce inflammation.

RISKS

Complications after this treatment are very uncommon. The most common complication of YAG laser posterior capsulotomy is short-term increased pressure inside the eye. You may need to use eyedrops to lower the eye pressure. Risks include:

- It is common to have a new floater in the eye after this surgery
- Detachment of the nerve layer at the back of the eye (retinal detachment)
- Swelling of the center of the retina (macular edema)
- Damage or displacement of the intraocular lens
- Bleeding into the front of the eye
- Swelling of the clear covering of the eye (corneal edema)

The following symptoms mean that you need urgent treatment:

- Excessive pain
- Sudden onset of floaters (caused by small pieces of debris that float in the vitreous humour of the eye)
- Loss of vision
- Flashing lights
- Increasing redness of the eye

ADDITIONAL NOTES: