

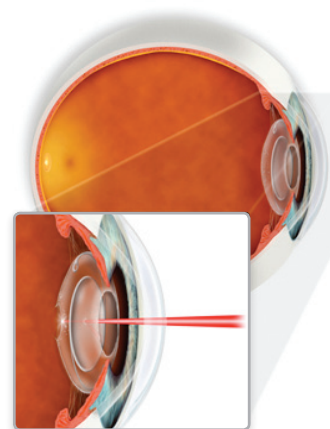


YAG Laser Capsulotomy

Capsule Opacification

The lens capsule is the thin bag that holds the intraocular lens (IOL) in position after cataract surgery. During the operation, the front (anterior) portion of the lens capsule is carefully opened and the cataract is removed. The IOL is inserted through the opening to sit inside the capsule.

The capsule becomes cloudy in about 25% of cataract surgery patients, and is one of the most common reasons for patients to notice a decrease in their vision after cataract surgery. This can occur within weeks of the surgery, or take years to. When this occurs, you experience symptoms similar to those from the original cataract. That's why capsule opacification is also known as secondary cataract, even though it is not an actual cataract.



Signs and Symptoms

- Gradual decreased and blurred vision
- Glare from lights and sun
- Vision not as clear as immediately after surgery

Treatment

A YAG capsulotomy is performed to restore vision lost from the clouded capsule. The YAG laser creates a small opening in the center of the capsule, allowing light to enter the eye through a central clear area. The procedure is painless, requires no anaesthesia, and has very little risk. After the dilating drops wear off from the procedure, most patients notice an immediate improvement in vision. The improvement each person experiences is dependent on the extent of the capsular clouding and the overall eye health. Some patients notice some floaters in their vision after the procedure; and these gradually will clear up.

Risks

There is a very small risk (<1%) of problems attributable to the tiny shockwave of the laser pulse. These include retinal tear and detachment and retinal swelling.