

Frequently asked questions

1. Will I need to have Posterior Capsulotomy repeated?

No. Generally this procedure only needs to be done once.

2. Will I notice any improvement?

You should notice an improvement in your vision over 24 hours.

3. How long should I take off work/sport/swimming etc – after treatment?

You will need to take approximately 2-3 days off work, sport and swimming. Dr Phipps can provide a sick certificate for this period.

4. When can I drive after the procedure?

You will need to avoid driving for 2-3 days after Capsulotomy. It is recommended that you wear sunglasses during the day for the following week after you commence driving.

5. Do I need someone with me on the day?

Yes. You will need to have someone with you to drive you home after the laser procedure.



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Important information about Posterior Capsulotomy



What is Posterior Capsulotomy?

Posterior Capsulotomy is a laser procedure used to clear blurry vision after cataract surgery. This may be required months or even years after the surgery. This blurry vision can impact on reading, driving and other important activities.

Why do I need to have this procedure?

During cataract surgery your cloudy natural lens is removed and replaced with a new Intraocular Lens (IOL) implant. This IOL sits within a pre-existing natural bag called a capsule which is like cellophane. At the back of the IOL this cellophane like bag can become cloudy causing blurred vision.

Treatment

This is a brief procedure in the doctors' room that will direct a special laser to the back of the capsule to make a small hole. This hole will not be visible cosmetically.

What to expect during the procedure

The Capsulotomy Laser is performed in the doctors' room after administering an anaesthetic drop to the eye. The procedure usually lasts for two minutes.

You may be able to hear some clicking sounds produced by the laser machine. The procedure is painless, however, you may experience a sensation in the eye during the procedure.

What are the side effects?

You may experience some redness, eye discomfort, sensitivity to light and blurry vision after the procedure for up to three days.

What are the risks?

Dr Phipps will discuss the risks with you in detail.

There is a small risk of raised eye pressure for a short period of time after the procedure. To prevent a rise in eye pressure from happening you may be given additional eye pressure lowering drops before and/or after the procedure.

There have been very few reports of serious problems after Posterior Capsulotomy. These serious problems may include bleeding of the iris (pigmented part of the eye), severe inflammation inside the eye and swelling of the cornea (front part of the eye). These problems while prolonging the recovery time almost always fully resolve.

There is also the rare risk of a retinal detachment occurring after the procedure which may require surgical repair and could result in permanent visual loss.