



YAG Capsulotomy

Laser Treatment after Cataract Surgery

The Hughes Eye Center is focused on providing the best medical and surgical eye care. Our staff includes board certified eye surgeons; residency trained optometrists, and highly trained staff members with over 75 years of combined medical/surgical experience. Our doctors do not perform routine eye examinations, fit contacts or prescribe glasses. We will communicate with your local eye and medical doctor to assure the best possible care!

Providers:

Dr. Matthew Hughes is a residency trained O.D. providing medical and surgical eye care in West Tennessee since 1991. Dr. Hughes practice is focused on the treatment and management of advanced eye disease and pathology. Dr. Tom Browning, Dr. David Irvine and Dr. David Underwood, are surgical ophthalmologists specializing in cataract treatment and laser treatment.

Your Eye After Cataract Surgery

When your cataract was removed, your eye's natural lens was replaced with an intraocular lens, or IOL. This clear lens is placed behind the iris (the colored part of the eye). The lens will last for as long as you do. This lens allows light to reach the retina, which sends visual messages to the brain.

Why YAG Capsulotomy May Be Necessary

After cataract surgery, your vision can become cloudy, much as it was when you had a cataract. Although the symptoms may seem similar, **THIS IS NOT A NEW CATARACT**. The problem is a clouding of the posterior capsule, which holds the lens in place. Your vision may be restored with a laser treatment called capsulotomy (polishing of the lens).

When the Capsule Becomes Cloudy

The posterior capsule is a thin, clear film, much like a piece of cellophane. Months or even years after cataract surgery, the posterior capsule can become cloudy. This clouding blocks light from reaching the retina, just as the cataract once did.

Before Laser Treatment, YAG Capsulotomy

Prior to your laser the doctors at The Hughes Eye Center will perform a comprehensive eye evaluation to determine if laser treatment will benefit you. We will review clinical information submitted by your local eye doctor to assure the best possible outcome.

YAG Capsulotomy (polishing of the lens) is done at our Jackson office or in a designated area at the Hardin County Hospital. Arrange for someone to drive the day of the laser treatment, your eye will be dilated.

You may eat, drink and take all your medications, including any form of blood thinners as normal, before the laser treatment.

What to Expect During the Laser Treatment

The treatment is quick and painless. There are no needles or stitches. You rest your chin in the laser chin rest, much like you did for the evaluation. You may see flashes of light and hear a small clicking sound as the laser is being performed. The laser usually takes less than 2 minutes.

How the YAG laser works

For a capsulotomy (polishing of the lens), the doctor uses a type of laser called a YAG. The YAG laser delivers tiny, rapid bursts of energy to create a small opening in the capsule. The laser passes through the clear tissue of the front of the eye and through the IOL without harm. When the laser reaches the posterior capsule, it makes a tiny opening so that the light can enter the eye.

After a Capsulotomy

You may notice improvement in your vision later that same day and it should continue to improve after the procedure. Your doctor will advise you of further expectations.

You will be given a prescription for eye drops to use for a few days after the treatment. There are no restrictions, you may return to your daily activities as normal.

Your local eye doctor or the doctors at The Hughes Eye Center will evaluate your eye one to two weeks after the procedure.

What are the risks associated with YAG Capsulotomy?

Although laser treatment is safe, just like with any form of treatment, there are risks, though unlikely. Risks include, possible increase in eye pressure, nick of the IOL (rarely affecting vision), the retina or other parts of the eye may swell, and **rarely**, the retina may become affected.

If any pain or unexpected change in vision occurs (again very unlikely), contact your local eye doctor or call 731-664-1994 or 800-945-1994.

Will I need a change in my glasses after the YAG Capsulotomy?

In most cases, a change in glasses is not needed. Your local eye doctor will be able to determine if any changes are needed after the procedure is done.