

Information for Patients

Laser Treatment

What is a laser?

A laser is a highly concentrated beam of light, which is capable of generating enough heat to produce a reaction in the tissues of the eye. Laser treatment is used to treat a variety of eye disorders.

You will receive an appointment letter to tell you to attend for your laser treatment as an out-patient. The laser clinic is situated in clinic Eye C and clinic Eye D on the ground floor of the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital. When you arrive at the reception desk please hand in your appointment letter so that the clerical officer knows you have arrived.

It is important that you take any tablets or medicine as normal, and to eat and drink as normal on the day of the appointment. Please remember to bring all your medication, or a list of your current medication with you.

What happens in the laser clinic?

The nurse will check your vision and put eye drops in to dilate your pupil (the black part of your eye) if they are required. Before the start of the laser treatment the doctor will examine your eyes and explain to you why you need to have laser treatment. During this time you will be able to ask any questions you might have.

When the doctor is ready to start the laser treatment, you will have some local anaesthetic drops put into your eye. The anaesthetic drops will sting slightly. The doctor will then place a contact lens onto the front surface of your eye. This will not be painful, but may feel a little strange.

What happens during the laser treatment?

When the laser is in operation, you will be aware of flashing lights and clicking noises. This is all quite normal. Most patients feel no discomfort at all; however, should you experience any discomfort it is important that you do not pull away from the laser, but inform the doctor, by an agreed signal.

It is important that you listen carefully to the doctor's instructions as you may be asked to look in certain directions. The laser beam is directed very accurately and your co-operation is essential.

Are there any side effects?

Following the laser treatment you will find that your vision is 'dazzled' and blurred, this lasts for a few hours. It is therefore advisable that you do not drive yourself to the hospital. It is also advisable to wear sunglasses to protect you from the glare of the daylight when travelling home.

Before leaving the clinic you will be given an out-patient appointment to attend for a follow up or further laser treatment.

If you have any questions with regard to laser treatment or anything contained within this information leaflet, please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff on (0161) 276 5543, Monday – Friday, 8.00 am - 5.00 pm.