

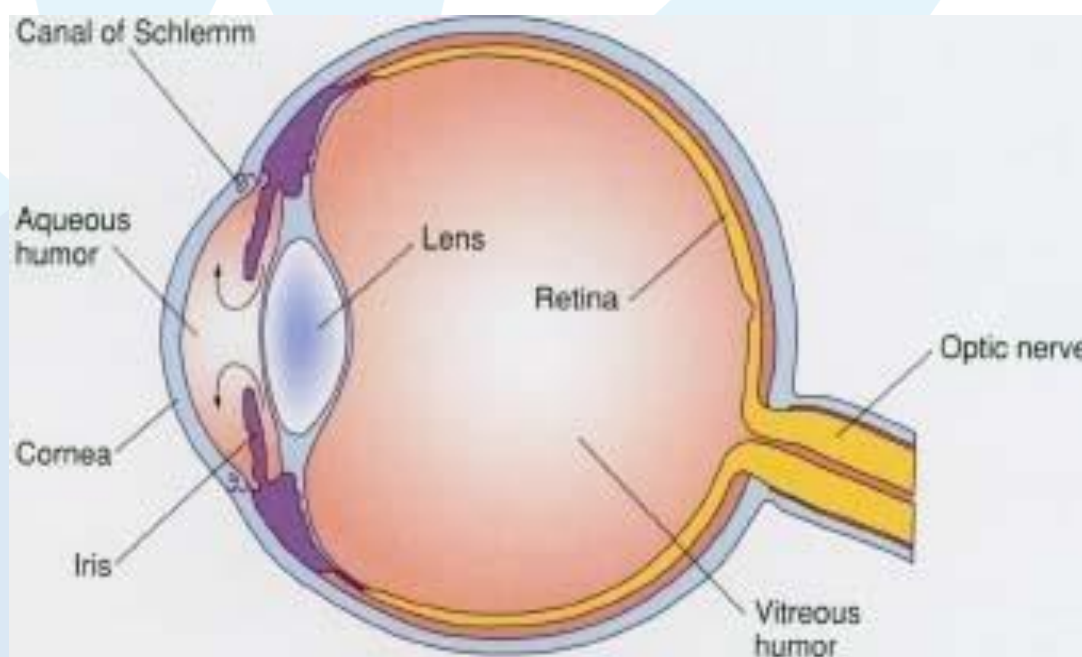
## Information for Patients

# Laser Iridotomy

## What is laser iridotomy?

There are many different types of glaucoma and the treatments are varied. Laser iridotomy is a treatment that is used for patients who have, or who are at risk of developing, acute angle closure glaucoma, or who have chronic closed or narrow angle glaucoma.

Acute angle closure glaucoma occurs when the flow of the watery fluid, called aqueous humour, becomes blocked and builds up causing the pressure in the eye to become very high very quickly. Chronic closed or narrow angle glaucoma can occur when the iris (coloured part of your eye) is pushed forward onto the delicate drainage system which then restricts the flow of aqueous humour so that the pressure within the eye goes up.



Laser iridotomy is used in these cases to prevent the pressure rising in patients at risk. The laser delivers a highly concentrated beam of energy which is used to make a small hole in the iris. This small hole allows the aqueous humour to flow freely into the front chamber of the eye.

## **What happens on the day of treatment?**

Expect your appointment to take approximately 3 hours. The nurse will check your vision and put some drops into your eye to make your pupil smaller. These drops are used to prevent the pressure rising within your eye. The drops take up to one hour to work. The doctor will take your written consent and explain further if you have any questions. You will also have anaesthetic drops put into your eye to numb the front surface.

Once seated in front of the laser machine, which is similar to the microscope you will have been examined on in clinic, a special lens will be placed against the front surface of your eye. During the laser treatment you will hear clicking noises. You might feel a slight pain lasting a second or less 'and it could feel a little strange.

After the laser treatment, you will have further drops put in your eyes to help reduce any inflammation caused by the laser. The pressure in your eye will be checked about an hour after the treatment, before you go home. You will then receive a prescription for drops to use at home and an appointment to come back to the clinic.

## **Are there any risks or side effects of this treatment?**

Your vision could be slightly blurred for a few hours following your laser treatment, but this will settle. If you are concerned that your vision is not returning to normal please contact the hospital on the numbers below. Please do not drive yourself to the hospital, as you will be unable to drive home.

There might be a little bleeding inside your eye, which will initially blur your vision; however, this will clear in a few days' time. Your eye might feel slightly bruised afterwards and sometimes your eye could become inflamed but the drops you have been given to use will control any inflammation and should help to relieve discomfort.

You might wish to take pain relieving medication, for example Paracetamol, to relieve any additional discomfort. **If you are already taking pain relief for a different condition continue with those, but do not take both.**

It is possible for the pressure in your eye to increase immediately after the treatment. In order to prevent this we put in some special drops before and immediately after the treatment.

The small hole in your iris is usually hidden under the upper eyelid and cannot be seen with the naked eye. However, very occasionally, it can cause glare or other problems. If you suffer with glare or other problems following your treatment, please contact a member of staff on the numbers below.

## How successful is laser iridotomy?

Laser iridotomy is very successful. However, occasionally the small hole can partly or completely heal up in the first few days after the laser treatment. Further laser treatment might be necessary following your review in clinic. This is usually very successful. Laser iridotomy is very good at protecting against acute angle closure glaucoma.

## Contact Information

The information in this leaflet is intended as a guide only, as each patient's experience will be different. If you require any further information or advice, please contact a member of staff on the telephone numbers below.

Do not wait until your next appointment, but contact us immediately, if you have any urgent symptoms such as:

- Increased redness of your eye
- Vision disturbance such as double vision or loss of vision
- Increasing pain

Glaucoma Specialist Nurses (0161) 701 4819 or via switchboard (0161) 276 1234 bleep 1976 available Monday – Friday hours may vary

Consultant secretaries available Monday – Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm

Miss Fenerty's secretary (0161) 276 5582

Mr Au's secretary (0161) 276 5522

Mr Yau's secretary (0161) 701 5915

Mr Yu secretary (0161) 276 5915

Ms Tacea's secretary (0161) 276 8957

Any of the above numbers could be answer phones at certain times. Your call will be returned but this might not always be the same day.

If you require emergency treatment, you can contact the Emergency Eye Department which is open from 8.00am to 8.00pm every day. Outside of these hours please contact Ward 55 open 24 hours every day. These departments can be contacted via the hospital switchboard on (0161) 276 1234 asking to be put through to the Emergency Eye Department or the ward.

If you have an enquiry regarding your appointment, please contact the appointment booking team:

- Adult glaucoma appointments (0161) 276 5533 (option 1) available Monday – Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm
- Paediatric (child) glaucoma appointments (0161) 276 5533 (option 5) available Monday – Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm