

NAME: _____ EYE: OD OS Date: _____

YAG CAPSULOTOMY

What is a posterior capsulotomy?

Posterior capsulotomy is a surgical procedure, which is sometimes necessary after cataract surgery. Cataract surgery is performed when the lens of the eye, which focus light rays, becomes cloudy. When it interferes with vision, it is called a cataract and the treatment is to remove the cloudy lens surgically.

What does the capsule have to do with cataract surgery?

The lens has a cellophane-like outer lining called the capsule. The most common method of cataract surgery leaves the back or posterior part of the capsule intact after the lens is removed. This technique maintains the normal barrier between the inside compartments of the eye. The back part of the capsule may be used to support the intraocular lens implant, usually inserted at the time of cataract surgery.

Why is a posterior capsulotomy necessary?

The posterior capsule is normally clear. However, with the passage of time after cataract surgery, this capsule itself can become cloudy or wrinkled. It acts much like a piece of cellophane, which is easy to see through when stretched tight, but which causes blurred vision when wrinkled. This wrinkling or cloudiness can interfere with vision in ways similar to the original cataract. If clouding of the posterior capsule interferes with your vision, your ophthalmologist may make an opening in the capsule to again restore normal sight. This can be done with laser surgery. It is not necessary to remove the capsule, but only to make an opening in the center to allow the clear passage of light rays. Although the laser procedure requires close and precise focusing by the ophthalmologist, for the patient the technique is usually painless and generally works quickly.

When should a capsulotomy be performed?

If your best vision diminishes after cataract surgery, it is important to consult your ophthalmologist. A capsulotomy may be recommended when your vision bothers you enough and your ophthalmologist feels the capsule is at fault. Many people may eventually need a capsulotomy after cataract surgery, especially younger people. The need for a capsulotomy should not cause you worry, since the clouding or wrinkling is part of the body's normal healing process in some patients.

Are there any risks?

The YAG CAPSULOTOMY procedure can change the focus of your eye, requiring a change in glasses. Also, the laser can make a mark on the implant. The laser mark usually does not interfere with vision. Sometimes, there may be a temporary increase in eye pressure or there may be a temporary swelling of the retina requiring eye drop treatment. The YAG CAPSULOTOMY procedure can lead to a detached retina in persons with weak retinas. Finding and treating the weak areas of the retina preventing detachment can minimize this.

What are the benefits and probability of success?

The majority of people with a healthy retina experience improved vision after a necessary YAG LASER CAPSULOTOMY procedure for a secondary cataract.

I consent to have Russell Hayhurst M.D. / Blythe Monheit M.D. to perform this procedure on my right eye / left eye and had an opportunity to have my questions answered.

Patient (or person authorized to sign) _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____