

The Eye Unit

Cyclodiode Laser Treatment: Pre- Op Information

This booklet aims to give you all the information you need whilst preparing for Cyclodiode Laser Treatment.

Glaucoma

- Glaucoma is a group of conditions where increased pressure inside the eye causes damage to the optic nerve, resulting in reduced vision.
- This high pressure can cause loss of vision and, if very high, pain or discomfort.
- Without treatment, patients usually lose vision gradually over the course of many months or several years.
- Once vision is lost, it is not possible to restore it.
- Where vision is already lost, treatment **will not** restore vision but aims to make the eye comfortable.
- The aim of treatment is to minimise any further damage to your vision and to help you keep useful vision for as long as possible

What is Cyclodiode laser treatment?

- Cyclodiode laser treatment is used with glaucoma patients as an alternative to glaucoma surgery, particularly in situations where it is felt that the surgery is not justified or has a high chance of failure or complications.
- Cyclodiode laser treatment helps to reduce the pressure within the eye by reducing the amount of fluid (aqueous humour) produced inside the eye. It does this by placing tiny burns on the part of the eye that makes the fluid.



Patient Information

The procedure

- This procedure is generally carried out as a day case procedure, so you are not usually in hospital overnight.
- The procedure itself takes approximately 15 minutes to complete.
- Unlike other lasers, this one needs to be performed with an anaesthetic. For this reason this laser is applied in the operating theatre rather than in the clinic.
- A local anaesthetic is usually used, which means that, although you are awake, you do not feel any pain. (On rare occasions a general anaesthetic may be necessary).
- After the treatment, as well as your anti-glaucoma medication, you will be prescribed additional medication for a few weeks to prevent the eye from becoming inflamed. **It is important that you take this as directed.**

After the procedure

- Your eye may be covered with a pad after the procedure. This should remain in place for a few hours until the anaesthetic has worn off.
- We advise that you **do not** drive on the day of the procedure.
- Your eye might be uncomfortable for a few days after the treatment. This can usually be controlled with painkillers such as paracetamol.
- The eye may also be red and watery and gritty for a few days, and your vision may be slightly blurred.
- There is a leaflet available called 'Going home after Cyclodiode Laser Treatment'. Please ask a member of staff for a copy.

Potential risks

Cyclodiode Laser Treatment is normally successful. It may also relieve glaucoma sufferers from the pain caused by high pressure within the eye.

All types of medical procedures involve potential risks. For Cyclodiode laser these may include:

Patient Information

- Inflammation of the affected eye so that the eye is red and painful after the procedure.
- Reduced vision for a few weeks. Rarely there may be a permanent reduction in vision.
- The pressure may go too low. This is usually managed by stopping all your glaucoma drops. Rarely, it can result in shrinkage of the eye.
- The pressure may still be high. Sometimes it takes more than one treatment session to bring the pressure down.
- Very rarely, laser treatment to one eye may cause inflammation in the other eye.

Contact information

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 5923 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

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