

Ophthalmology

Cyclodiode Laser Treatment

This leaflet 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 slowly 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 incisional glaucoma surgery, particularly in situations where it is felt that the other forms of glaucoma surgery is not justified, has failed 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. You will need to be in hospital for about half a day.
- The procedure itself takes around 15-20 minutes to complete.
- Unlike other lasers, this one needs to be carried out 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, you will be prescribed additional medication for a few weeks to prevent the eye from becoming inflamed. You will need to continue with your usual drops and medication afterwards and we will advise you if they can be changed, reduced or stopped. **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.

What are the benefits of cyclodiode laser?

The benefit of cyclodiode laser is to reduce the eye pressure in situations when the eye pressure is too high and causing damage to the optic nerve or causing you significant eye pain. The full effect of the laser can take weeks to become apparent. In most of the cases you will need to continue using glaucoma drops.

Patient Information

What are the potential risks of cyclodiode laser?

Cyclodiode Laser Treatment is normally successful. All types of medical procedures involve potential risks.

For Cyclodiode laser these may include:

- Inflammation of the affected eye so that the eye is red and painful after the procedure.
- Reduced vision for a few weeks. Uncommonly there may be a permanent reduction in vision.
- It is common to have dry eye after the laser. Usually you will be required to use additional lubricating drops for few weeks. Rarely it can damage the front surface of the eye.
- 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. It may take more than one treatment session to bring the pressure down.
- Very rarely, the laser can cause severe bleeding or loss of vision which may be permanent.
- Very rarely, laser treatment to one eye may cause inflammation and vision loss in the other eye

Emergency Contact information

For emergency/ very urgent concerns please contact 024 7696 4800 or the hospital switchboard on 024 7696 4000

Open Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 4.30pm;
Friday 8.30am to 4.00pm; Saturday 8.30am to 12.00pm

Outside these opening times please attend the General Accident and Emergency Department at University Hospital Coventry which offers a 24hr service.

Further Information

Any queries about information in this leaflet please contact:

Mr Atul Bansal (Consultant with special interest in Glaucoma and Cataract surgery) through glaucoma secretaries: Michelle Donnelly / Jayne Owen: Tel: 02476 966502.

Patient 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.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

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