



What to Know About  
YAG LASER Capsulotomy After Cataract Surgery

During cataract surgery, the cloudy natural lens is removed, and a new artificial lens is implanted within the thin natural envelope of tissue called the “capsule” that surrounds and holds the original lens in place. An opening is made in the front part of the capsule, but the remainder of the capsule needs to be left alone. Over time, the back side of the capsule can thicken and become cloudy. This is caused by continued normal healing processes that occur, given a particular eye, patient and lens type. The membrane may become opaque, and/or contract around the new lens implant in such a way that visual problems can occur. These areas are monitored as the eye heals, and drops used after surgery can help minimize these issues. However, when such healing does occur, then light cannot be focused on the back of the eye as well as it should, and visual issues such as blur, glare, and a shifting focus of the eye may occur. This posterior capsular thickening can occur within weeks, months, or years after the cataract surgery is performed. It is not considered a surgical complication and while it does not damage the eye in any way, it can affect the quality of vision.

When needed, a YAG Laser can be used to revise the membrane structure and restore a higher quality of vision. This is a simple procedure that requires dilation and only takes minutes, and is done a few months after surgery, or when felt safe. A YAG Laser capsulotomy is billed through your insurance. **As a medical procedure, medical insurance covers YAG capsulotomies and all patients are thus responsible for co-insurance and deductible fees, according to contract.**

A YAG laser capsulotomy is **NOT** to be confused with **LASIK or PRK Laser** surgeries. LASIK and PRK are vision corrective surgeries that are performed on the cornea. These procedures are not covered by medical insurance; however, when patients choose certain newer cataract surgery technologies (i.e. LenSx femtosecond laser and ORA), LASIK or PRK may be provided at no extra fee. You should ask about these technologies if you have questions.

\_\_\_\_\_ **I understand that if needed, a YAG capsulotomy may be considered after cataract surgery and if I choose to proceed with it, my medical insurance will be billed and I am responsible for the coinsurance and deductible fees.**

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sig: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Sig: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Richard Stewart, M.D.**