

Ophthalmology Department

Laser Peripheral Iridotomy

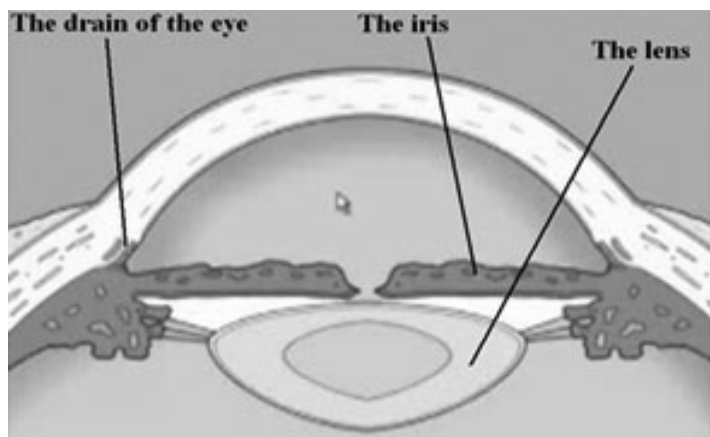
What is Laser Peripheral Iridotomy

- Laser Peripheral Iridotomy is a procedure that makes a pin-prick size hole in the iris (which is the coloured part of the eye).
- The hole is inside the eye, so it will not cause the eye to become “leaky”

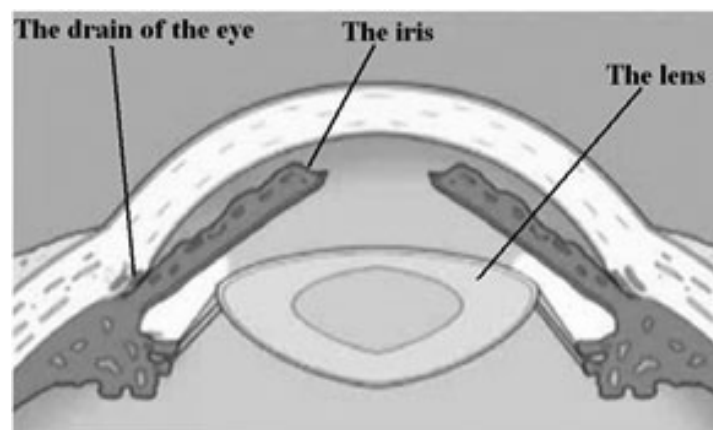
Why do I need it?

- Your eye doctor believes that you are at risk of developing a problem with raised pressure in your eye.
As time goes by, the lens inside the eye grows in size. As it grows, it occupies more space and it starts pushing the iris forward. Eventually, the growing lens can push the iris forward enough to threaten blocking the drain in the eye.
- The drain can become blocked completely, causing acute angle-closure glaucoma which is a sudden rise of the pressure inside the eye, or chronic angle closure glaucoma, in which the pressure goes up gradually.

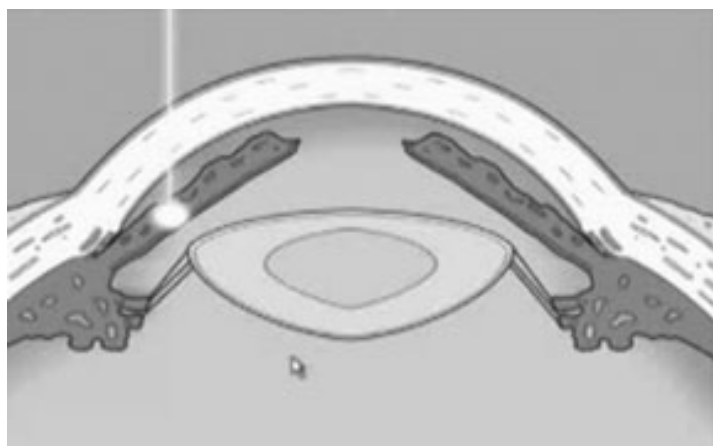
Normal iris and lens positions



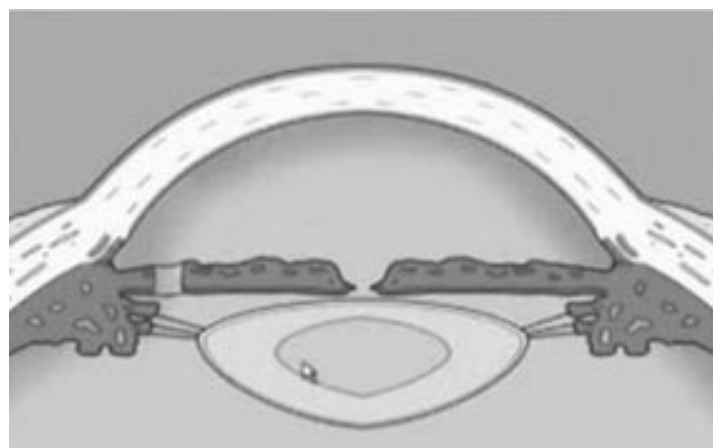
The iris is blocking the drain



The laser is used to open a hole in the iris



The hole in the iris is completed and the iris moved backward



What is acute angle closure?

- The drain of the eye becomes suddenly blocked by the iris, so the fluid in the eye cannot escape.
- When this happens, the pressure inside the eye rises very quickly.
- This is a very painful and potentially a blinding condition.
- When the eye doctor feels that there is a certain chance of a patient getting this problem in the future, she/he will recommend this laser procedure.

What is chronic angle-closure?

- A similar problem to the acute version except that you, the patient, are not aware of this as this type of glaucoma develops gradually and slowly.
- Only your eye doctor will be able to determine whether this process is occurring by examining your eyes.

What are the benefits of Laser Peripheral Iridotomy?

- To prevent the drain from becoming blocked.
- It may also lower the pressure inside the eye.

What are the alternatives to laser?

- A small operation can achieve the same effect. It is safer to have a laser procedure as the risks are far less with it.
- Rarely, the laser procedure does not work or it is not technically possible to carry out the laser, so your eye doctor may recommend that you have the small operation instead.
- If you have a big lens or a cataract, then removing the cataract through cataract surgery can be done instead. Your doctor will advise you if this is appropriate.

What will happen if I decide not to have laser or surgery?

- Then you continue to live with the risk of acute angle closure glaucoma. You may never have a problem.
- However, the laser procedure is generally considered to be a safe way of preventing a very painful and potentially blinding condition.

Is the laser guaranteed to work?

- No, but there is very high chance it will protect you from developing acute angle-closure glaucoma

How will I be treated with the laser?

- You will generally have a laser appointment, which is like a normal outpatient appointment.
- You will get some eye drops when you arrive. These eye drops make the procedure more comfortable, easier and safer. One of the eye drops can give headaches and ordinary painkiller would help in these circumstances.
- The laser machine looks similar to the machine you are usually examined with at your appointments.
- Your doctor will numb your eye with some more eye drops and rest a contact lens on the eye. The contact lens focuses the laser, helps keeping the eye still and keeps the eyelids apart so you don't have to think about keeping your eyes open. You continue to blink as normal.

- You generally have both eyes lasered, but whether you have both eyes done on the same day or at separate visits is up to your eye doctor.
- Occasionally, the doctor may need to use two separate lasers to carry out the treatment.

What does it feel like?

- Patients' experiences vary: some say it feels like a pinprick, others say a tapping sensation. Some feel a sensation at the back of their head. You cannot see the laser beam. You may see a red aiming beam though.
- The laser shots only last a fraction of a second and you may need a few shots per eye.

What should I do about my medication?

- All medication, including any regular eye drops, should be taken as usual.

What are the risks and possible complications of the procedure?

Inflammation: The eyes can become red and sore following laser, so you will be prescribed a course of anti-inflammatory eye drops.

Bleeding: The laser does make a small hole in the iris, so there is a possibility of bleeding. The bleeding usually is minor, stops almost immediately and does not interfere with the procedure or its chance of success. Rarely, the blood may stop the surgeon from finishing the laser, in which case the procedure will be postponed for a few weeks.

High eye pressure: The laser can sometimes cause the eye pressure to go high soon after the laser procedure. If the pressure goes up, then you will be given the appropriate treatment. Usually, the high pressure settles down over time

Loss of eyesight: It is theoretically possible to lose your eyesight from this procedure, but it is extremely rare.

Further Laser: An eye doctor will examine your eyes a few weeks following the laser procedure.

What happens after the laser?

- We will give you a hospital's prescription for some eye drops from the pharmacy to use for a few days.
- You will also be asked to make an appointment for your follow-up check.

What should I expect after the laser?

- After the laser procedure, you may feel that the sight is altered slightly for the rest of the day.
- Most people do not experience discomfort after the laser, but if you do, then you can take some simple painkillers.
- Some patients experience 'floaters' for a few days. This is more likely to happen if there was a little bleeding during the procedure.

Post-operative instructions

There are no restrictions following laser peripheral iridotomy. Carry on with all your normal daily activities.

Who do I contact if I have questions or concerns?

- **Acre Mills Outpatients** Telephone No: 01484 343235
Calderdale Royal Hospital Telephone No: 01422 222414
- **Out of Hours and weekends** ring the main switchboard on 01484 34 2000 or 01422 357171 and ask to speak to the eye doctor on-call.

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Sister Ophthalmology Department
Acre Mills Outpatients
Telephone (01484) 343235
or
Calderdale Royal Hospital
Telephone (01422) 222414

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

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ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

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براہ کرم مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

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المذكور أعلاه"