

MR SIMON HORGAN FRCS FRCOphth
Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon

Information for Patients

YAG LASER

YAG Laser treatment is required in about five percent of patients who have undergone cataract surgery. The membrane, which holds the artificial lens in place, becomes cloudy and vision deteriorates. This can happen at any time but usually two to four years after the original surgery and comes on very gradually.

This treatment can be given in the clinic by Mr Horgan and only takes a few minutes. It is carried out on a special machine like a slit lamp.

Drops will be instilled into the eye(s) being treated to dilate the pupil, and you will need to wait 20 minutes for this to happen. You will also be given anaesthetic drops to numb the eye. Further drops following treatment will not be required.

You do not need to fast on the day of treatment and should take all medications as usual.

It is normal to feel a little dazzled and light sensitive after treatment but this wears off in a few hours. It will not be necessary to have a patch although you may prefer not to drive home from your appointment especially if you have had both eyes treated.

You should notice an improvement in vision the following day. Complications are rare although a few floaters are not unusual. There is 1:100 risk of a serious complication called a retinal detachment which would require further treatment or surgery.

This is a one off treatment which does not normally need to be repeated.

YAG Laser treatment is available at Mr Horgan's clinics in the Real Clinic Battersea, Harley Street or the New Malden Diagnostic Centre.

For appointments, please telephone the Practice Manager, Lorraine Williams, on 020 7060 9911.

In the event of an emergency on a Friday or over the weekend when the office is closed, such as symptoms of a retinal detachment (continuous flashing lights, floaters, rippling effect of vision or sudden deterioration of vision) please attend the emergency department at Moorfields Eye Hospital (near Old Street station) or the Western Eye Hospital (nearest station Baker Street).

Updated: 09.11.22