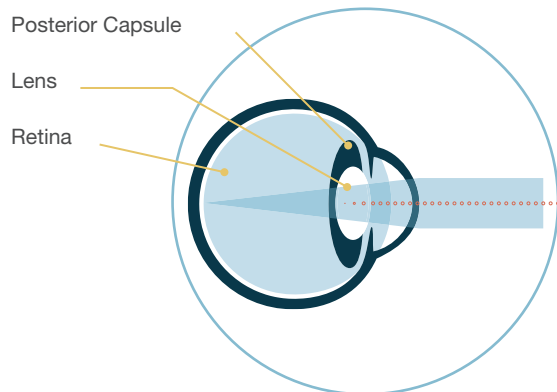


YAG Laser Posterior Capsulotomy or YAG

In the months or years after cataract surgery, you may feel like your cataract is coming back. You may notice your vision getting progressively hazier and an increase in glare, especially when seeing lights at night. Many experience this to some degree. While the cataract is not growing back, the natural lens capsule inside your eye is experiencing a change. After cataract surgery, the lens capsule can become hazy as it contracts and wraps around the lens implant. While this is very helpful to prevent the lens from moving or becoming dislodged, it can produce unwanted blurriness. Fortunately, we have a



laser that can remove this quickly and painlessly. Of note, this is a different laser than the laser we use for LASIK (a laser procedure that is not covered by your insurance).

- The YAG procedure takes just a few minutes and there are generally no restrictions afterwards.
- YAG laser procedures are submitted to medical insurance.
- Many people will need to have this done at some point after cataract surgery. Whether it happens within a few months or years later, please know it is your body's natural healing response at work.

Please reach out to your care team if you have additional or ongoing concerns.

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Expectations After Cataract Surgery



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Visual Recovery

During the next 4-8 weeks, your eye will be healing from surgery. So, if your vision is blurry during the healing process, please do not worry that something is wrong. We expect your vision to fluctuate and gradually get better. If your vision worsens or you are in pain, it is important to let your doctor know. Every eye is unique, and the speed of visual recovery depends on your eye's health going into surgery and the severity of the cataract.

Taking the post-operative eye drops on a strict schedule and following post-operative instructions are the best things you can do to give your eye every advantage for a quick and full recovery.

Also note that the surgical incisions may cause a small amount of bleeding, and the redness they cause will likely resolve within 2 weeks. If there is an increase in redness, let your doctor know.

During recovery, remember:



Healing happens over time.



Stick to the drop schedule.



Redness will heal.



Follow your post-op instructions.



Call if you have any concerns.

Visual Phenomena

We educate all patients that new onset of flashes of light and floaters can be an early sign of retinal detachment and you need to call your doctor for an exam of your retina. Having said that, the modern lens implant is a remarkable work of engineering, combining the best of polymer, optical, and biomedical technology. The lens implants are smaller and thinner than the natural lens, allowing them to be implanted through self-sealing microsurgical incisions. Despite these innovations, common visual phenomena that we hear about come in the following varieties:

- 1. Arcs of light:** This is the result of light hitting the edge of the lens, creating a prism effect bending light toward the center of the retina.
- 2. Side shadows:** This is due to the relative flatness of the lens compared to the natural lens, and causes light to be reflected back out of the eye, casting a shadow.

It is impossible to predict which patients will experience these issues, and all lens implants are prone to cause them.

Typically, the brain adapts to these visual phenomena over a few months and most people are not bothered by them after 6 months post-surgery. If they are persistently bothersome, please let us know and we can discuss your options.



Arcs of light



Side shadows