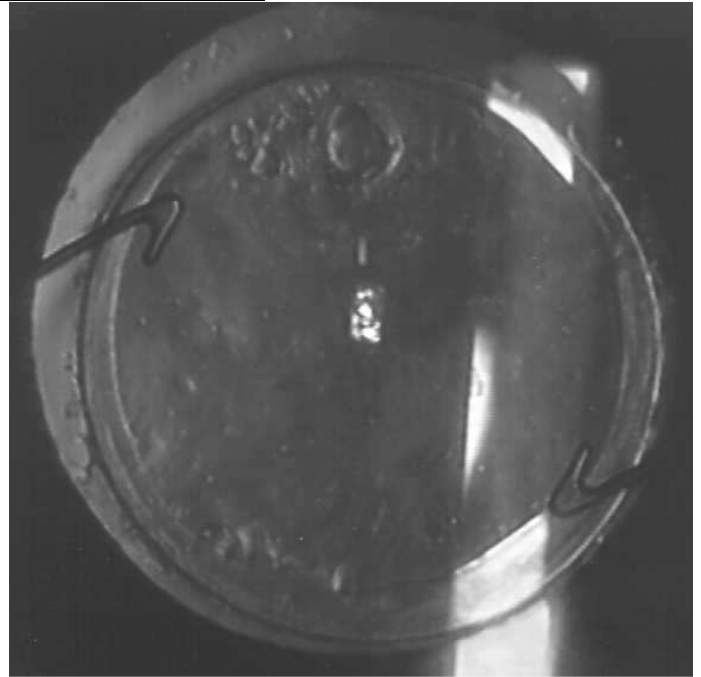
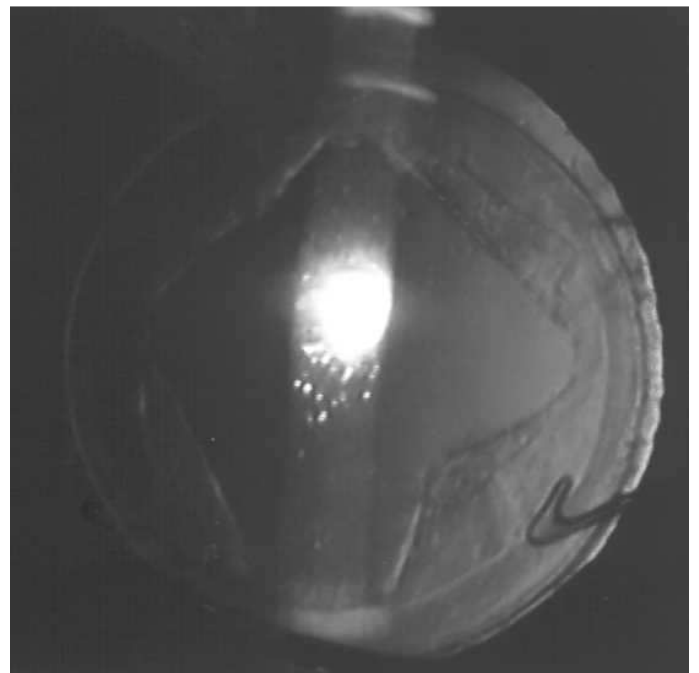


## After CATARACT

**Can the cataract recur?** No, but a few people (1 in 10) develop what is termed an after-cataract or technically termed posterior capsular thickening. This typically happens about 18 months after the operation or longer. You will notice this because your vision will become blurred. In the modern operation a membrane is left behind which separates the front and the back of the eye and it is important that this membrane remains. However it can become cloudy and this is then termed an after-cataract.



**How is an after-cataract treated?** It is treated with the laser (technically called the Yag laser photodisruption of posterior capsule of lens (including laser capsulotomy) OPCS C7340) at the hospital as an outpatient procedure and you do not need to stay in hospital. This is where the misconception that all cataracts can be removed with the laser comes from.



1. You will be required to attend and just as today have one or both pupils dilated. This takes 30-60 minutes to do. If you have been given dilating drops, put them into the RIGHT/LEFT eye(s) to be treated 1 hour and again 1/2hr before your appointment. You will have been given two Drops marked Minims Tropicamide and Minims Phenylephrine 2.5%. Put only one drop of each of these into the eye(s) to be treated.
2. Because your pupils are dilated you must NOT drive for the remainder of that day or until your vision returns to normal.
3. After this you will be taken into our laser room. We do not normally allow relatives in the room as it is potentially hazardous but on special request we can accommodate this by using special laser safety glasses.
3. You will be asked to sit on the familiar slit lamp to which the laser is attached.
4. We will anaesthetise the eye with drops, these may sting a little but this is normal.
5. Often a contact lens is placed on the eye. This you do not feel as the eye is anaesthetised though you are aware of it.

6. The Doctor examines the eye in the usual way with the bright light of the slit lamp.
7. The Doctor will tell you to fix on a particular spot. This keeps the eye still so that he/she can work. It is vitally important that you look at this spot and not any other light. Please try to keep as still as possible.
8. The laser light is invisible so you will not see or feel anything. However a small click occurs as the laser works. Just keep very still during this time. It is a painless procedure as the capsule is like your nail having no sensation.
10. After treatment the vision will be blurred from the drops and contact lens. The vision will return over night. You may well find the vision improves quickly due to the capsule being opened up.
11. Occasionally we do the Nd:YAG Laser in two treatments. The hole made in the capsule does not usually close, but just occasionally some people need it repeating months or years later, however this is unusual.

### **What if the eye is painful when I get home?**

1. You may be given a tablet of Diamox (Acetazolamide) 250mg Sr to lower the pressure before you go home or an additional lopicone eye drop.
2. Mild discomfort is acceptable and may be treated with some simple pain killers. eg. Paracetamol or Nurofen.
3. If you have any difficulties please call the eye department, our office or the on call Doctor at the Western Eye Hospital 020 7886 3247.

**Is Laser Safe?** The benefits of laser do outweigh the risks, but it must be pointed out that side-effects may occur but are fortunately very rare. Transient blurring of vision due to the lens and lubricant applied is normal. Damage to the lens during the laser is very minimal and has not in my experience ever caused a problem, though potentially the laser could crack or move the lens.

### **After treatment**

You will be given g. Predsol 0.5% four times per day to the eye for a week. This is to reduce any inflammation in the eye.

### **Glasses**

You may go back to your optician to update your glasses the following week or after your review appointment which is usually 1 -2 weeks afterwards.

Should you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ask.

**Mr. Nicholas Lee May 2012**

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