



Posterior Capsule Clouding and YAG Capsulotomy

The Following Information has been Prepared for You:

"Posterior Capsule Clouding" is a common event following cataract surgery. Clouding of this capsule will cause a decline in your vision that cannot be corrected with glasses or contact lenses. Some patients report experiencing a "film" over their vision. It is treated with a non-invasive, quick & painless procedure known as "YAG Capsulotomy." You will be referred back to your cataract surgeon to have this done.

Even if you need a prescription for glasses eventually, your exact prescription cannot be determined until the cloudy capsule is no longer blocking light transmission, so no prescription will be determined or written for glasses or contacts until your capsulotomy is done.

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

The reason the capsule gets cloudy is uncertain, but it is always following cataract surgery. Doctors speculate that it is just the body's response to the surgery itself. It is impossible to predict who will develop this capsule clouding following cataract surgery. Some patients never develop it, while others develop it in either one or both eyes. It can occur within weeks or years following cataract surgery.

ANATOMY:

The capsule is a clear membrane that surrounded your original lens like an envelope. The front of the capsule is removed during surgery, in order to extract your cataract through the opening. The back capsule is left in place to provide added support to your lens implant as your eye heals. When this capsule gets cloudy, your vision declines, and your eyes may be more sensitive to lights and glare. Your doctor can detect clouding of this membrane in the microscope, especially when the eyes have been dilated. Capsulotomy is done with a "YAG" laser, and a small window is made in this capsule which allows light to pass through unobstructed, thereby restoring vision.

PROCEDURE:

Your surgeon may do the capsulotomy on the same day of your consult, or may schedule it on another day.

Your eyes will be dilated, so please bring a driver if you feel necessary.

Your eye pressure and vision may be checked both before and after the procedure.

The procedure will only take a very short while (seconds) and will be painless. You will be non-sedated, positioned in a "microscope" and asked to look at a target while the surgeon ablates the capsule with the extremely fine-tuned laser.

Your vision will be restored instantly, but you may not be able to appreciate it until your dilation drops wear off.

WILL YOU NEED TO HAVE THIS DONE MORE THAN ONCE, OR WILL IT "GROW BACK?"

YAG Capsulotomy is only needed once per eye. Neither the cataract nor the capsule grows back. There are rare events where the window made by the laser is not quite wide enough, or that it didn't fold back into the right position when the procedure was done. In this case, your surgeon may need to repeat the procedure.

FOLLOW-UP:

You will return to your optometrist for a routine check-up in 6 months. If your surgeon feels you will need a glasses prescription

sooner, they may send you back to our office within a week or so.

Post-operative complications are rare. However, if you have any new symptoms develop, you should contact your doctor immediately.

Please Rate the Information You Received

	☐ Very helpful - all questions are answered ☐ Somewhat helpful - I still have questions ☐ Not helpful – none of my questions were answered
Comments / Questions / Typos:	

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