

Laser Peripheral Iridotomy Consent

This is a laser surgery used for people with narrow-angles or the possibility of angle-related issues. The laser is used to make a small opening in the iris (colored part of the eye). The laser opening should let more fluid flow through the drain in the eye. Furthermore, it will hopefully prevent scar formation between the iris and cornea which can lead to progression of the glaucoma.

There are some individuals who respond well to this and others who do not respond at all to the surgery. Your response is determined by the type of narrow-angles you have and the basic make-up of your eye.

The procedure can be done in one or two trips to the laser area. The laser machine looks similar to the examination microscope that the doctor uses to look at your eyes at each visit. The laser itself makes little noise and flashes a light about as bright as a flash on a camera. Almost everybody finds the procedure comfortable and without pain. Some individuals feel a little pressure during the laser. The procedure usually takes less than ten minutes.

You may need drops before and after the laser. The Doctor will keep close watch on your eye pressure after the laser. This is the greatest risk for this procedure. If there is a significant pressure rise, you may require medications to lower the pressure, which will be administered in the office. Rarely, the pressure in the eye elevates to a very high pressure and does not come down. If this happens, you may require surgery in the operating room to lower the pressure. This is a most unusual event.

Most people notice some blurring in their vision after the laser. This clears within a few hours in most individuals. The chance of your vision being permanently affected from this laser procedure is very, very small.

You will need to use drops after the laser to help the eye heal correctly. You will probably use the new drops for about one week. In most cases, *you are asked to continue your other eye medications after the laser procedure.* The doctors will notify you if there is any exception to continuing your medications.

Other risks from this procedure include inflammation in the eye, cataract formation, bleeding (usually a small amount but can be a large amount), double vision, scar formation between the iris and lens of the eye (synechia) that prevents the pupil from moving correctly, late closure of the iridotomy opening that requires repeat laser surgery to open the hole again, and (rarely) damage to the cornea or retina from the laser light. Most of these risks are somewhat decreased by having a skilled surgeon, but cannot always be prevented.

I understand the risks, benefits and alternatives and consent to have Laser Peripheral Iridotomy surgery in my _____ (state "right" or "left") eye.

Patient (or person authorized to sign for the patient)

Date

Witness