

Laser Capsulotomy for Secondary Cataracts

A YAG Laser Capsulotomy is a procedure that is sometimes necessary after cataract surgery to restore vision.

WHAT IS A LASER CAPSULOTOMY?

Cataract surgery removes a cataract from within a surrounding cellophane-like bag, called the capsular bag or lens capsule. An artificial lens (called an intraocular lens) is then inserted into the capsular bag to replace the natural lens. Weeks to years after cataract surgery, the posterior (back) part of the lens capsule may become cloudy or wrinkled. When it causes blurry vision, it is often called a secondary cataract. A laser capsulotomy makes a central opening in the secondary cataract to restore normal vision. It is performed using a YAG Laser.

WHEN SHOULD A LASER CAPSULOTOMY BE PERFORMED?

If your vision becomes worse after cataract surgery, it is important to see your ophthalmologist. If a cloudy or wrinkled lens capsule is decreasing your vision, a laser capsulotomy will be recommended.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A LASER CAPSULOTOMY?

A special laser, called a YAG laser, is used to make a small opening in the center of the posterior capsule. The treatment is painless and only takes one or two minutes. It is performed in the office with the patient sitting up. Anesthesia is obtained simply by using an eye drop. Improved vision is noticed very quickly. Normal activities can be resumed immediately.