



Laser Peripheral Iridotomy (LPI)

Information Sheet

What is LPI?

Laser Peripheral Iridotomy (LPI) is a quick laser procedure used to treat or prevent a condition called “angle-closure glaucoma.” It makes a tiny hole in the iris (the coloured part of your eye) to help fluid drain better. This helps lower pressure inside your eye and protects your vision.

Why Is It Done?

Your eye has a natural drainage system where fluid flows out. If the opening to the drainage system is too narrow or gets blocked, the pressure inside your eye can rise quickly and damage your eye - this condition is called “angle-closure glaucoma.” LPI is often recommended to prevent this type of glaucoma before it occurs.

What Happens During the Procedure?

- The procedure is usually done in a clinic. It only takes a few minutes
- Eye drops will numb your eye
- A special contact lens is placed on your eye
- The laser makes a tiny hole in the iris (the coloured part of your eye)
- You may feel a quick pinch or sting with each laser pulse

After the Procedure

- Your eye pressure will be checked shortly after
- You may be given eye drops for a few days
- Your vision might be blurry or light-sensitive for a short time
- A follow-up appointment to check your eyes

Risks and Side Effects

LPI is very safe. Some possible side effects include:

- Temporary blurry vision or mild discomfort



- Mild inflammation (redness or swelling)
- Light sensitivity or glare
- Rarely, a short-term rise in eye pressure or mild bleeding

When to Call Your Eye Doctor

Call your clinic if you have worsening pain, vision changes, or any concerns after the laser treatment.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does it hurt?

A: Most people feel only mild discomfort or nothing at all. The laser pulses are very fast and not usually painful.

Q: Will I still need glaucoma drops?

A: You may still need eye drops after LPI, depending on your pressure and other eye findings. Your doctor will guide you.

Q: Will the hole stay open forever?

A: Usually, yes. Your doctor may check it 1–2 weeks after the procedure. In rare cases, the hole can close and may need to be reopened with another laser treatment.

This document was reviewed by Dr. Steve Arshinoff.