



Laser Treatment for Posterior Capsule Opacification Information Sheet

What is Posterior Capsule Opacification?

After cataract surgery, some people develop a cloudy layer behind their new lens. This is called “posterior capsule opacification” (PCO). It is not dangerous, but it can make your vision blurry again, similar to how it looked before your cataract surgery.

What is the Treatment?

The laser is a quick and painless procedure that clears the cloudy layer behind the lens. This allows light to pass through properly again and makes your vision clearer.

Why Is It Done?

You might need laser treatment if your vision becomes blurry again after cataract surgery. Your eye doctor can check if this is the cause of your blurry vision.

What Happens During the Procedure?

- It is done in a clinic while you are awake. It takes a few minutes
- Your eye will be dilated with drops
- You may see bright lights or feel gentle pressure
- The procedure is not painful
- You can go home right after. Your vision may be blurry for a few hours

What Should I Expect After?

- Most people notice clearer vision within 1–2 days
- You may see floaters for a few days
- Most people can go back to normal activities the same day



Risks and Side Effects

- Mild eye discomfort or irritation
- Floaters
- A short-term rise in eye pressure
- Very rarely: swelling in the eye, retinal detachment, or damage to the lens implant

When to Call Your Eye Doctor

Contact your clinic right away if you notice:

- Eye pain that gets worse
- A big increase in floaters or flashing lights
- Sudden loss of vision

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does the laser treatment hurt?

A: No, most people do not feel any pain. You may see a bright light or feel mild pressure, but the procedure is quick and comfortable.

Q: Can the cloudy layer come back?

A: Once the laser clears the cloudy layer, it usually does not come back. Most people only need the treatment once.

This document was reviewed by Dr. Steve Arshinoff.