



Laser Peripheral Iridotomy Treatment

What is Laser Peripheral Iridotomy (LPI)?

Laser peripheral iridotomy is a type of laser treatment used to treat and prevent angle closure glaucoma.

How does intraocular pressure become elevated in Angle Closure Glaucoma

Ordinarily, a clear fluid (aqueous humour) exits the eye via a drainage system called the trabecular meshwork situated at the front of the eye – where the clear part of the eye (cornea) joins the white of the eye (sclera) at an angle.

If you have a narrow eye angle, you may be at significant risk of developing angle closure glaucoma because the aqueous humour cannot access the trabecular meshwork usually due to an obstruction by the iris (coloured part of our eyes). This can cause pressure in the eyes to rapidly build, leading to pain and irreversible loss of vision.

How does LPI work?

LPI uses laser energy to form a small opening in the iris; forming a passage for fluid to flow through, widening the eye angle and preventing the drainage system from being closed.

What happens during the procedure?

LPI is carried out as an outpatient procedure under local anaesthetic. You may eat and drink and take any medications as prescribed before and after your procedure.

Before the treatment you might have an eye drop to constrict your pupil (this may give you a mild temporary headache) and another eye drop before and following the treatment to prevent a eye pressure rise.

The procedure itself lasts a few minutes, however expect to be in the department longer to allow the eye drops to take effect. You will need to have your eye pressure checked about 30 minutes after the procedure; please be prepared to wait.

Before the procedure Mr Ratnarajan will ask you to sign a consent form. Please make sure you ask any questions or raise any concerns you may have.

The laser equipment is mounted on a slit lamp like the one Mr Ratnarajan used to examine you in the clinic.

It is important to keep your eyes and head very still for the duration of the procedure which usually takes less than 5 minutes. You will be aware of flashing lights and may experience mild discomfort, but the laser should not be painful.

Your vision can be blurred for the rest of the day following the laser treatment; please ensure you have someone with you to drive you home after the procedure.

Mr Ratnarajan will provide you with anti-inflammatory drops to use following treatment. The treatment does not make your eye painful afterwards but you may take some paracetamol if you have any discomfort and your eye feels sore.

Are there any potential problems?

LPI treatment is safe in the vast majority of patients. Some patients can have the following side-effects:

- raised eye pressure (usually short-lived)
- inflammation (usually short-lived)
- small bleed in the eye (usually short-lived)
- glare/haloes (usually short-lived)

Questions or concerns

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact Mr Ratnarajan on:

Tel: 0800 005 3335

Email: info@innovationeyeclinic.co.uk