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Patient Information Leaflet – Glaucoma Procedures

Cyclodiode Laser

What is cyclodiode laser?

Cyclodiode laser is a procedure used to lower eye pressure in glaucoma. It tends to be reserved for types of glaucoma where medical or other treatments have been ineffective or are not suitable. Sometimes laser treatment is recommended in order to avoid or delay the need for more invasive surgery.

How does it work?

In cyclodiode therapy a laser is used to create very small burns in the ciliary body, the part of the eye that produces aqueous. The aim is to reduce the production of aqueous, which causes the eye pressure to fall.

What happens on the day of treatment?

Cyclodiode is performed in the operating theatre and is a short procedure (5-10 mins). Cyclodiode is most commonly performed under local anaesthesia with a numbing injection around the eye. Following the anaesthetic the laser is applied through the sclera (the white outer coat of your eye) using a pen like instrument.

At the end of the procedure, an injection of steroid is given to help reduce inflammation that may occur following the laser treatment. A clear plastic shield will be applied over the eye. It is important that you do not drive to the hospital on the day of treatment so you may wish to arrange for someone to take you home. You will most likely need to continue your glaucoma eye drops (not always) and will need to use some extra steroid drops for at least two weeks following surgery. Our team will advise you of this before you leave. You will receive an appointment to come back to the clinic usually at about 2 weeks after the procedure.

Are there any risks or side effects of this treatment?

Immediately afterwards your eye may look red. This may result from the local anaesthetic. Your eye may feel slightly bruised and sometimes can become inflamed. The eye drops will control any inflammation and help to relieve discomfort. A mild painkiller can be taken, like Paracetamol, to control any discomfort you may have.

There is a 1% risk that the cyclodiode treatment will reduce vision. This could happen if the pressure in the eye goes too low.

How successful is it in lowering the eye pressure?

Over 70% of the eyes treated using cyclodiode laser have a successful lowering of pressure. The effects of the laser can wear off over time but may last for months or years. The treatment can be repeated if necessary.

Contact information

The information in this leaflet is intended as a guide only as each patient's experience will be different. If you require any further information or are concerned about your eye following laser treatment, please contact my secretary.