

Patient information

Retinal argon laser treatment

What is argon laser treatment?

Argon laser treatment is the application of an intense beam of light into the back of the eye, to stabilise or cure a number of eye conditions such as diabetic eye disease, retinal vein occlusions and retinal holes or tears.

What is the aim of laser treatment?

The aim of argon laser treatment is to stabilise the changes caused in your eyes from the above conditions and prevent further partial or complete visual loss. It does not generally improve vision, although this may happen sometimes.

Are there any risks with this treatment?

- There is a small risk of vision becoming worse.
- Temporary reduction of night and colour vision for several hours.
- Possible permanent peripheral vision loss (some people may lose their driving

licence).

- Possible blind spots.
- Occasionally bleeding in the jelly of the eye (vitreous haemorrhage).
- Very rarely the eye may become red and painful.
- Sometimes laser treatment is not successful and further laser or other treatment is required.

However, the benefits of laser treatment greatly outweigh the risks.

On the day of laser treatment

The nurse will check your vision and put dilating drops into your eye. It usually takes 30 minutes for the drops to work.

The doctor will put anaesthetic drops into your eye and ask you to place your head in front of the slit-lamp (as you did in clinic) and then apply a special contact lens on your eye in order to stabilise it and focus the laser beam.

You must stay very still while the treatment is being carried out.

You will see a lot of bright flashes once the treatment starts.

Some people may feel a bit uncomfortable or even a slight pain at times.

The treatment may last from 5 to 45 minutes depending on the condition of your eye.

After the treatment, your vision will be blurry for several minutes and your eyes will remain dilated for a few hours.

You must NOT drive after the treatment. Please make alternative arrangements for your return journey.

A follow up appointment will be made at the end of your visit: in three months' time or in 1 - 2 weeks for further laser treatment.

If you wish to contact the Eye Treatment Centre

Telephone: 01284 713815 or 01284 712636

Monday to Friday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

For emergencies only: At the weekend and out-of-hours telephone: 01284 713000 and ask to speak to the 'on-call' ophthalmic doctor

If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (formerly DisabledGo)

<https://www.accessable.co.uk>

