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Cyclodiode Laser

Why might I need Cyclodiode laser?

There are many different types of glaucoma and the treatments are varied. Cyclodiode laser is a treatment that is used to lower intraocular pressure in patients where medical and/or other laser treatments have been ineffective or are contraindicated in some way. Sometimes, laser treatment is recommended in order to avoid or delay the need for more invasive surgery.

How does it work?

The diode laser is a highly concentrated beam of light, which can be used to target and treat a selected area. Cyclodiode laser is when this laser is used to produce very small burns in the ciliary body. The ciliary body produces the watery fluid called Aqueous Humour, and is situated behind the iris (coloured part of your eye). The reduced production of aqueous humour causes the eye pressure to fall.

What happens on the day of treatment?

The treatment takes place in the operating theatre. You will be asked to attend Ward 54 at the Private Patient Unit (Manchester Royal Eye Hospital), in advance of the treatment time. Further instructions about this will be given in the letter discussing your admission. Written consent for the procedure will be taken, if not previously done, and I can explain further if you have any questions.

The procedure is commonly done under local anaesthetic but may be done whilst you are asleep under general anaesthetic, or with sedation. This will be discussed with you prior to your admission and

you will be able to meet the anaesthetist prior to the surgery. The local anaesthetic involves drops that numb the front of your eye and an injection in the skin around your eye, which will make the area around your eye go numb. This may last for a few hours and can affect your vision at the time.

The laser is then 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. An eye pad and a clear plastic shield will be applied over the eye. It is important that you do not drive, and you may wish to arrange for someone to take you home. You will be given drops to take at home. You will probably need to continue your glaucoma eye drops (and or tablets) the doctor will advise you of this before you leave. You will receive an appointment to come back to the clinic usually at about 1 and then 4 weeks after the procedure.

Are there any risks or side effects of this treatment?

Immediately afterwards your eye may look bloodshot. This may result from the injections given to the skin of your eye. Your eye may feel slightly bruised afterwards and sometimes become inflamed. The eye drops will control any inflammation and help to relieve discomfort. You may wish to take a mild painkiller, for example Paracetamol, to relieve this discomfort. **If you are already taking painkillers for a different condition continue with these, but do not take both.**

Loss of vision may occur after the treatment particularly if the pressure in the eye goes too low. Studies suggest this happens in about 1 in 100 eyes treated. Some change in the vision is noticed by up to 20 % of patients. Sometimes this is related to swelling in the central retina that may improve with treatment.

How successful is it in lowering the eye pressure?

Over 80% of the eyes treated by laser in this way have a successful lowering of pressure. The effects of the laser can wear off in time but may last for months or years. The treatment can be repeated if

necessary. In my studies every second eye will need to be retreated by 18 months.

Contact information

The information in this leaflet is intended as a guide only, as each patients experience will be different. If you require any further information or are concerned about your eye following laser treatment, please contact my secretary at the Alexandra hospital, the telephone number is 0161 495 6815.

If you are unable to speak to my secretary, please ring my secretary at the Eye Hospital who can contact me. The telephone number is 0161 276 6949. If you are unable to contact my secretaries or me at the Eye Hospital and are concerned then the Emergency Eye centre on 0161 276 5597 is open everyday between 8.00 am and 8.30 pm.

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