

YAG laser posterior capsulotomy for posterior capsule opacification (PCO)

At Peel Vision, we use the advanced TANGO™ SLT/YAG combination laser, a state-of-the-art laser using ultra-low energy levels, ensuring the highest levels of safety and precision.

What is poster capsule opacification (PCO)?

After modern cataract with lens implant surgery, the capsular bag of the cataract is retained in place to support the artificial lens implant. The back part of this capsule may become cloudy over time and cause blurred or disturbed vision. This occurs in approximately 20% of patients within 5 years following routine cataract surgery. If left untreated, the cloudiness will worsen, and the visual symptoms will also worsen over time.

How is PCO treated?

PCO is easily and effectively treated with laser. It is a painless and quick procedure completed in clinic by Dr Then.

Does PCO come back after treatment?

No, once it is treated with laser, PCO does not recur.

What does YAG laser PCO do?

YAG laser capsulotomy uses laser to sharply focus on the area of cloudiness of the back capsule and clear it.

How is YAG laser PCO performed?

This laser is done in the clinic room with Dr Then. It is a short procedure (less than 3 minutes) and painless. Only local anaesthetic eye drops are required and patients can return home directly after.

What happens after YAG laser PCO?

Following the laser treatment, the vision may be blurred for a few minutes, but rapidly recovers. Patients should notice an improvement in their previous blurred vision within a few hours. There should be no post-treatment pain.

You may experience temporary “floaters” in the eye after laser treatment. These can be seen as black or semi-opaque spots or lines in the vision, usually for 1-2 weeks after treatment. They usually fade away over time.

What are the risks of YAG laser PCO?

Complications during or after laser posterior capsulotomy are very rare. They include (and are not limited to):

- Floaters –these usually subside within 1 week
- Retinal tear or swelling
- Temporary rise in eye pressure
- Displacement or dislocation of the intraocular lens

Patient acceptance of risk

It is impossible for Dr Then to inform of every possible complication that may occur. Results cannot be guaranteed and more treatment/surgery may be necessary.

We confirm you have signed a consent form with Dr Then to proceed with this procedure. Dr Then has answered any questions to your satisfaction and costs of having YAG laser posterior capsulotomy performed have been explained.

If you have any additional queries, please do not hesitate to call 9535 4321.