

Laser Peripheral Iridotomy (LPI)

- **Glare, haloes and visual disturbances**

Some patients may find the extra light entering through the new opening a little distracting, while others may experience visualising a “line” at the bottom of their field of vision at certain position of gaze. However, most patients find these visual disturbances tolerable.

- **Bleeding**

There may be slight bleeding after the procedure and this can be treated with more frequent application of steroid eye drops.

- **Damage to the cornea**

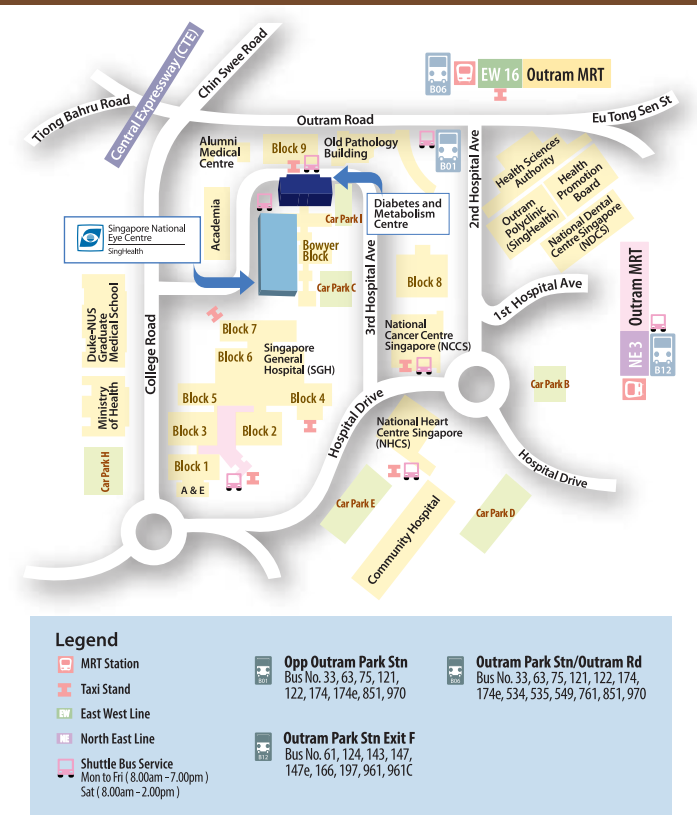
This is a rare but potentially sight-threatening complication. The cornea may lose its clarity and a corneal transplant may be necessary in the future.

Are there any alternatives?

An alternative to laser treatment is a cataract operation, which is not suitable for everyone. It also carries a greater risk of potential complications. There are no other alternatives to open up the drainage channels in your eye. Some patients with this condition also develop a persistent rise in their eye pressure. In this case, you may need eye drops or other treatments in the long term to keep your eye pressure within safe limits.

Please consult your surgeon if you have any further queries about the surgery.

LOCATION MAP



This patient information leaflet is a general guide to help patients understand specific eye conditions, treatment or tests. The information does not replace the need for individual advice from an ophthalmologist. Please consult with your ophthalmologist about your specific eye condition and/or concerns. The contents of this leaflet are not to be produced in any form without the prior permission of the Singapore National Eye Centre.

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LASER
PERIPHERAL
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A CLOSER LOOK: LASER PERIPHERAL IRIDOTOMY



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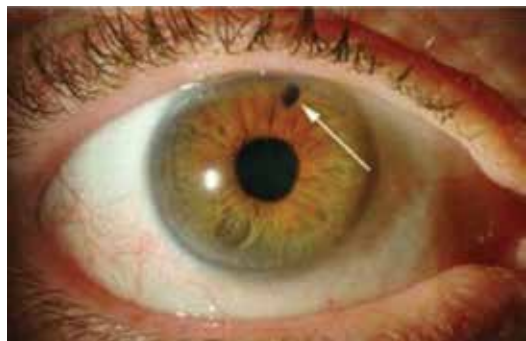


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What are narrow drainage angles?

You may have narrow drainage angles because your iris (edge of the dark brown coloured part of the eye) is closer to the cornea (clear window at the front of the eye), causing the “drain” to be narrowed, and eventually blocking off the drainage of fluid from the eye. When this happens, the eye pressure increases dramatically. This will cause significant pain, blurring of vision and headache with nausea and vomiting. This is known as acute angle-closure. This is a serious condition and it can lead to permanent loss of sight.

This emergency requires prompt treatment, and your ophthalmologist may recommend to perform a laser peripheral iridotomy.



Peripheral Iridotomy Post-laser



What is a laser peripheral iridotomy (LPI)?

LPI is done in an outpatient setting in the laser clinic. In this procedure, a tiny hole is created at the periphery of your iris. This forms a permanent passage through which aqueous humour can flow through and pushes the iris tissue backward, thus widening the drainage channels. This will then reduce the risk of acute angle-closure.

Prior to the laser, the nurse will instill a miotic (an eye drop to make your pupil smaller). After instilling the anaesthetic eye drops, the ophthalmologist will put a special contact lens in your eye before applying the laser beam.

The treatment is painless due to the anaesthetic drop used to numb your eye before the laser, but you might experience a slight discomfort when the laser is being applied. This takes about 10 to 15 minutes.

After the procedure, you will return to the waiting area. Before you leave the eye centre, your ophthalmologist or nurse will check the eye pressure about half an hour later.

What are the benefits?

This procedure is performed to save your remaining sight. It will not restore any sight you may have already lost; neither will it improve your sight.

The laser treatment is to prevent a sudden (acute) rise in pressure within your eye. Without this treatment, you are at risk of developing sudden acute glaucoma and irreversible blindness.

Are there any risks?

Complications after this treatment are uncommon, but may include:

- **High eye pressure**

Occasionally your eye pressure will rise immediately after laser treatment so it is important to check the eye pressure half an hour after the laser. If this happens, you may need extra treatment before you can go home. This treatment usually comes in the form of eye drops, but may also include tablets. Your ophthalmologist will discuss which treatment is suitable for you and advise on the treatment duration.

- **Closure of iridotomy**

Rarely the laser beam opening is incomplete, or not big enough. This will be detected after your treatment, or on your follow-up visit. If required, the laser treatment will be repeated at a later date.