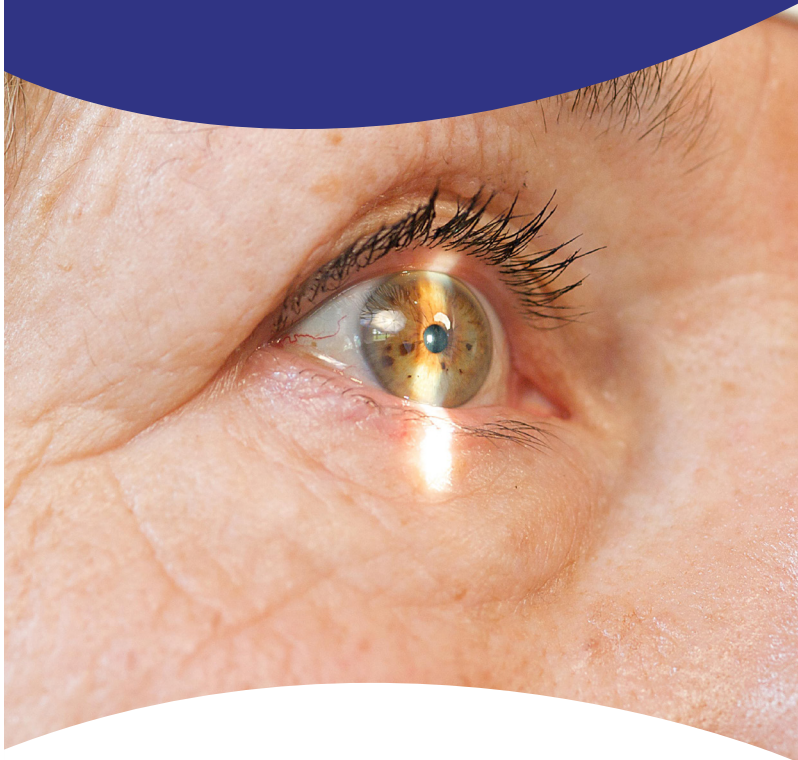


Posterior Capsular Opacification (PCO)



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What is it?

Posterior Capsular Opacification (PCO) is a common condition that affects people who have had cataract surgery, and is the gradual build-up of scar tissue on the back of the implanted lens.

The scar tissue is slightly opaque and as it thickens, it begins to interfere with vision. People often feel like their cataract is coming back, noticing gradual blurring, ghosting and glare.

How is it treated?

Fortunately, PCO is easily fixed with a minor procedure called YAG Laser Capsulotomy. A special laser is used to polish off the scar tissue on the back of the implant which is all done from the outside of the eye through the pupil, without needing to touch the eye at all. The procedure takes a few minutes and is usually completely painless.

When might it happen to me?

The speed at which people build up this PCO scar tissue is very variable - sometimes as fast as weeks or months following surgery, but more often it takes a number of years before it requires treatment.

If you have had cataract surgery, it is likely you will require YAG at some point.

Where is it treated?

YAG laser can be carried out on the NHS at the eye hospital or privately for around £800 for both eyes. Your optometrist will pick up the condition at your eye examination and can advise you on next steps.

If you are concerned, please get in touch.

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