

TYPES OF LASER TREATMENTS

All laser treatments will be performed in AMBULATORY CARE at the THUNDER BAY HEALTH SCIENCE CENTRE

YAG LASER CAPSULOTOMY (YAG CAP)

A clouding of the membrane that helps to hold the lens implant from cataract surgery in place can occur anywhere from months to years post surgery. It results in blurred vision similar to what was experienced with the original cataract.

To treat a yag capsulotomy is performed during which a hole in the center of the posterior capsule is made. This results in the return of clearer vision. There is a 1 in 500 risk of retinal detachment in the few months following.

YAG LASER PERIPHERAL IRIDOTOMY (PI)

Angle closure glaucoma can occur when the iris is abnormally close to the cornea which can block the drain of the eye. If this happens the pressure goes up dramatically within a few hours causing pain, redness and decreased vision which may be permanent if not treated promptly.

To prevent this from happening a laser Iridotomy is recommended which is a laser treatment that puts a tiny hole in the iris allowing it to fall back from the cornea thereby reducing the risk of angle closure glaucoma.

SELECTIVE LASER TRABECULOPLASTY (SLT)

Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty, or SLT, is a form of laser surgery that is used to lower intraocular pressure in glaucoma.

It is used when eye drop medications are not lowering the eye pressure enough or are causing significant side effects. It can also be used as initial treatment in glaucoma.

Laser energy is applied to the drainage tissue in the eye. This starts a chemical and biological change in the tissue that results in better drainage of fluid through the drain and out of the eye. This eventually results in lowering the pressure of the eye. It may take 1-3 months for the results to appear.

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PANRETINAL PHOTOCOAGULATION (PRP)

Panretinal Photocoagulation (PRP) is a type of laser to treat Diabetic Retinopathy (new abnormal blood vessels at the back of the eye in the retina or in the drainage system within the eyeball).

The PRP laser treatment prevents abnormal new vessels on the retina and in the drainage system of the eyeball from growing and encourages existing ones to shrink and scar up. This makes them less likely to bleed into the jelly in the eyeball (vitreous haemorrhage) or to cause a painful type of high pressure within the eye (neovascular glaucoma).

PRP laser treatment involves applying many laser burns to the edge of the retina (lining at the back of the eyeball). It is often done over a number of different sessions.

FOCAL LASER

Focal laser is a treatment for macular edema where small laser burns are placed in the central retinal area. These burns help to decrease and prevent retinal swelling (macular edema).