



veonet
Ireland

Specialist Eye Clinics

YAG capsulotomy

What you need to know before
and after your procedure

Your treatment at Veonet Ireland

At Veonet Ireland, we know how important your vision is to your everyday life. Our mission is simple — to make world-class eye care more accessible and affordable for patients across Ireland, delivered with warmth, understanding, and expertise.

This brochure is designed to help you feel comfortable and informed about your YAG laser procedure. We'll explain why this treatment may be recommended, what's happening with your vision, and what you can expect on the day.

From your first visit to your follow-up care, our team is here to support you every step of the way — ensuring you feel confident, cared for, and in safe hands.



YAG stands for Yttrium, Aluminium and Garnet crystals, which generate the laser.

Why would you need YAG laser surgery and how can it help restore your vision?

YAG laser treatment is recommended when the thin membrane behind your lens implant becomes cloudy after cataract surgery. This clouding, known as posterior capsule opacification, does not harm the eye but can make your vision gradually less clear, much like the original cataract. It affects up to 30% of patients and can develop months or even years after surgery.

A YAG capsulotomy creates a small opening in the cloudy capsule, allowing light to pass through normally again. The procedure is quick, painless and highly effective. It helps restore the clarity you enjoyed after your cataract operation.



You may benefit from YAG laser treatment if you notice:

- **Sudden blurring after cataract surgery** - Vision that becomes misty or cloudy again is one of the most common signs. A short YAG procedure can clear the haze and restore sharp focus within minutes.
- **Difficulty reading or seeing fine details** - If text, faces or small details look less crisp, the cloudy capsule may be blocking light. YAG treatment can bring back clearer, more comfortable vision.
- **Increased glare or light sensitivity** - If bright lights, screens or night driving feel uncomfortable again, capsule clouding may be the cause. Many patients report immediate relief from glare after treatment.
- **Halos, ghosting or blurred outlines** - A cloudy capsule can interfere with how light enters the eye. YAG capsulotomy helps restore a clear image, with over 90% of patients noticing improvement within 24 hours.
- **A gradual decline in visual quality** - If your sight has been steadily worsening since your cataract surgery, YAG treatment can quickly restore clarity.

YAG capsulotomy is a safe, non-invasive procedure and serious complications are rare. If you notice any changes in your vision, your optometrist or ophthalmologist can advise whether YAG laser treatment would help.

Your eye assessment

At this appointment, our clinical team will test your vision and check the eye pressure. Drops to dilate your pupils will be put into both eyes before the clinician's examination. Please note that these drops may make your vision blurry for about four hours, therefore you will need someone to drive you home after this appointment. You will have the opportunity to raise any queries or concerns with members of the clinical team during your assessment.

During your assessment appointment you will see the clinician for your eye examination. If appropriate you will sign a consent form for the proposed YAG laser procedure and you will then be given an appointment to return for this treatment.

The procedure

Your vision will be checked first, so if you wear glasses, please bring them with you to the appointment. Drops will be used to dilate the pupil of the eye being treated, and they may blur your vision for several hours. You will not be able to drive after using these drops, so please come with a companion or arrange transport home.

The procedure is carried out using a laser attached to a standard slit lamp microscope. Anaesthetic drops are used to keep the eye comfortable, and a small contact lens may be placed on the eye to help guide the laser.

The procedure takes about 5 to 10 minutes. You may notice bright lights and hear soft beeps, but most people experience very little discomfort.



After the treatment

Your vision will be blurred immediately after the YAG laser treatment, but it should improve over the following few hours.

- Your vision will be blurred immediately after the YAG laser treatment, but it should begin to improve over the following few hours.
- You may notice floaters, which is very common. These usually settle within the first two weeks.
- If you notice a sudden increase in floaters, flashes of light or the feeling of a curtain coming over your vision, please contact your Veonet Ireland Clinic straight away, as this may indicate a retinal detachment.
- Please contact us if you experience severe pain or any noticeable loss of vision after treatment.
- Some patients may need a follow-up appointment in the outpatient clinic. Before you leave, the clinician will let you know if another visit is needed.
 - You can usually resume driving the following day.
- You may need to visit your optician about a week after the procedure. This is usually advised if your vision feels slightly different or less clear than expected.

Risks of YAG capsulotomy

Like any medical procedure, YAG laser treatment carries some risks, although serious complications are uncommon.

Most people notice clearer vision afterwards, although results can vary.

Risks of a YAG capsulotomy include:

- **Retinal detachment:** the retina, which is the inner lining of the eye, can become detached. If left untreated, this can lead to reduced or significant loss of eyesight. However, if detected early, it can usually be successfully treated. The incidence of retinal detachment is rare.
- **Macular oedema:** the retina can become swollen, causing blurry vision. This can be treated, but recovery may take some time. The chance of macular oedema after YAG capsulotomy is generally rare, but is common in diabetics.
- The procedure may temporarily affect eye pressure, particularly in people with glaucoma, but this can usually be managed with drops.
- Rarely, the lens may be affected by the laser and could require further treatment. In exceptional circumstances, the lens may dislocate or subsequently need to be changed.
- On very rare occasions, further treatment may be needed to achieve the best possible vision.

How to contact us

Contact your Veonet Ireland Clinic for appointment information or questions about your treatment.



Ireland 01 270 7888

NI 028 9002 9002

(Monday - Friday, 07:30 - 17:30)

info@veonet-ireland.com



Feedback and complaints

At Veonet Ireland, patient experience is at the heart of everything we do. Feedback helps us to continually improve our services and celebrate what we do well.

Compliments - If you've had a positive experience with our team, we'd love to hear about it. Sharing your story helps us recognise and thank our staff for the care they provide.

Suggestions and feedback - We welcome ideas on how we can improve our services, facilities, or communication. Every suggestion is carefully reviewed and considered.

Complaints - If something hasn't met your expectations, please let us know. We take all concerns seriously and will work with you to resolve them quickly, fairly, and with respect.

How to share your feedback

- Speak directly with our patient experience team during your visit.
- Call our patient experience team on **Ireland 01 270 7888 or NI 028 9002 9002**
- Email us at patientexperience@veonet-ireland.com

Your voice matters. Whether it's a compliment, suggestion, or complaint, your feedback helps us deliver the highest standard of care for every patient.

Accessibility

This brochure is available in alternative formats to ensure it is accessible to everyone.

Larger Print - We can provide this brochure in a larger font size for easier reading.

Braille - Copies are available in Braille upon request.

Digital Format - An accessible digital version can be sent by email or downloaded for use with screen readers.

To request this brochure in an alternative format, please contact:

T Ireland 01 270 7888 or NI 028 9002 9002

E Patientexperience@veonet-ireland.com

Veonet Ireland is committed to making all of our information accessible, so every patient can engage with and benefit from our services.

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Specialist Eye Clinics



Our Locations

Belfast
Cork
Dublin Carrickmines

Opening 2026

Dublin North
Galway
Waterford

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