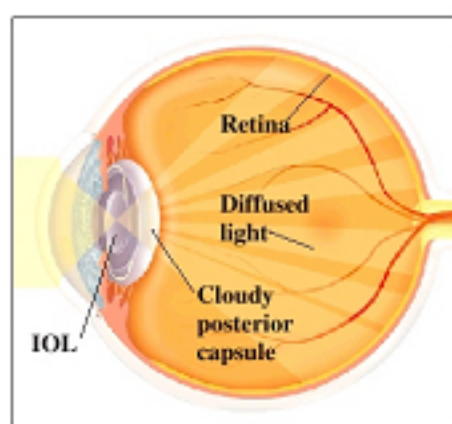
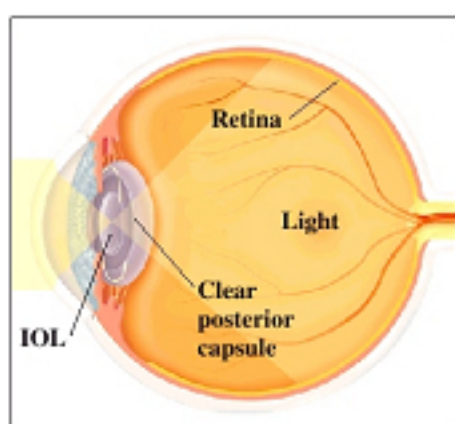




## Patient Education: YAG Capsulotomy

When your cataract was removed, your eye's lens was replaced with an intraocular lens. This clear lens was placed in the part of eye which held the old lens—the posterior capsule. You could see again because your cloudy lens was replaced with a clear lens and light could now reach your retina.

After cataract surgery, your vision can become cloudy, like it was when you had a cataract. This is sometimes called an “after-cataract” or a “second cataract”, but it isn't a new cataract. Instead, the posterior capsule has become cloudy. The posterior capsule is a thin, clear film, much like a piece of cellophane. Months or even years after cataract surgery, the posterior capsule can become cloudy. This may again block light from reaching the retina. To restore your vision, a laser treatment called YAG capsulotomy is used.



A laser is a powerful beam of energy that can be focused on a tiny point. Because it can be precisely controlled, it is safe and reliable. The YAG laser delivers tiny, rapid bursts of energy. A special contact lens is used to help focus the laser on the treatment spot. The laser passes through the front of the eye and the intraocular lens without harming them. When the laser reaches the posterior capsule, it makes a tiny opening. Light can then enter the eye again. Enough of the posterior capsule is left to hold the intraocular lens in place.

No injection is necessary with YAG treatment and it is painless. Your vision will be blurry for at least 4 hours after the procedure, but should improve after the dilation wears off. It is often helpful to use moisturizing drops after the YAG since the ointment used and dilating drops can often make the eye feel tired and dry.

It is necessary to have your eye pressure checked within 24 hours of the procedure as a precaution: however, complications from the procedure are rare.