

Laser peripheral iridotomy

Laser peripheral iridotomy is recommended in some cases of angle closure. A laser is used to create a small hole in the peripheral edge of the iris (less than half a millimetre in size). The aim is to allow the iris to rest back away from the cornea, creating more space and exposing the drainage structure of the eye.

The procedure is easy to tolerate under local anaesthetic and takes just a few minutes. Sometimes the laser feels like a static electricity click at first, but the procedure should not be sore. The potential side effects are uncommon: glare and unusual lights in 1:100, problematic bleeding or inflammation in 1:50, rarer side effects requiring treatment (such as cataract, retinal detachment) in 1:200. Usually anti-inflammatory eye drops are given for one week after the laser.

If iridotomy does not open the angle, laser iridoplasty may be recommended.

