



Laser peripheral iridotomy (PI)

Mr Kumar has recommended that you undergo **laser peripheral iridotomy (PI)** for your eye condition. This leaflet explains what the procedure involves, how it works, and what to expect.

What is laser peripheral iridotomy (PI)?

Peripheral iridotomy is a laser procedure used to treat or prevent angle-closure glaucoma. It involves creating a tiny hole in the iris (the coloured part of the eye) to improve the flow of fluid within the eye and reduce pressure.

It is commonly recommended for patients with narrow angles or those at risk of angle closure. The procedure is quick, effective, and has a high success rate in preventing sudden rises in eye pressure.

How does it work?

Inside the eye, fluid (aqueous humour) flows from behind the iris to the front of the eye and drains through a structure called the drainage angle.

In some people, the iris can block this flow, causing pressure to build up. Peripheral iridotomy creates a small opening in the iris, allowing fluid to bypass the blockage and flow more freely. This helps to open the drainage angle and lower the risk of pressure spikes.

The procedure

PI is a quick procedure that takes place in the clinic and typically takes between 5 and 10 minutes per eye. However, you can expect to be in the clinic for an hour.

Before the treatment, a nurse will check your vision and instil drops to constrict the pupil. These may cause a temporary brow ache in some patients, but usually clear up after an hour.

Mr Kumar will perform the procedure at a machine similar to the one used to examine the eye in the clinic. He will instil numbing drops in the eye, and a special contact lens will be placed on the eye to help focus the laser and keep your eyelids open. You might experience a flicking sensation while the laser is applied. You may also see flashes of light and hear clicking sounds while the laser is applied.

During the procedure, you are advised to keep your head still with the forehead touching the bar of the machine and your chin on the chin rest. The contact lens on the eye will stop you from blinking and, hence, should not be a concern.

After the procedure

Mr Kumar will instil eye drops after the laser and prescribe eye drops to take home. You are advised not to touch or rub your eyes for a couple of hours after the procedure.

Your vision might be slightly blurred, and the eye may feel a little uncomfortable or light-sensitive for a short time. You should not drive yourself home after the appointment, but you can usually return to normal activities, including driving and contact lens use, the following day.

Mr Kumar will advise you regarding continuing your ongoing eye drops, if any. A follow-up appointment will usually be arranged within a few weeks to check the eye pressure and ensure the iridotomy is working effectively.

Potential side effects

Peripheral iridotomy is generally safe, but as with any procedure, there are some risks:

- Temporary blurred vision
- Mild discomfort or headache
- Light sensitivity



- A small risk of increased eye pressure shortly after the procedure
- Rarely, inflammation or need for repeat treatment if the opening closes
- Some patients may notice a small line or light reflection in their vision, although this is uncommon and often settles with time.

How long does it take to work?

The effect of the iridotomy is usually immediate in improving fluid flow within the eye. However, pressure stabilisation and full assessment of its effectiveness may take a few weeks.

Cost of the treatment

	One Eye	Both Eyes
Surgeon Fee	£400	£750
Hospital Fee	£325	£450

Peripheral iridotomy is an effective and preventative treatment for angle-closure glaucoma. It significantly reduces the risk of sudden pressure rises and potential vision loss.

It is particularly beneficial for patients with narrow drainage angles or those who have already experienced symptoms of angle closure. Early treatment can prevent more serious complications and reduce the need for emergency intervention.

If you are happy with the information provided above, please contact Mr Kumar's team to make an appointment:

Email: secretaryeyedoctor@gmail.com

Phone: 0118 911 3666