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Jeżeli chcemy, aby te informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić 01932 723553

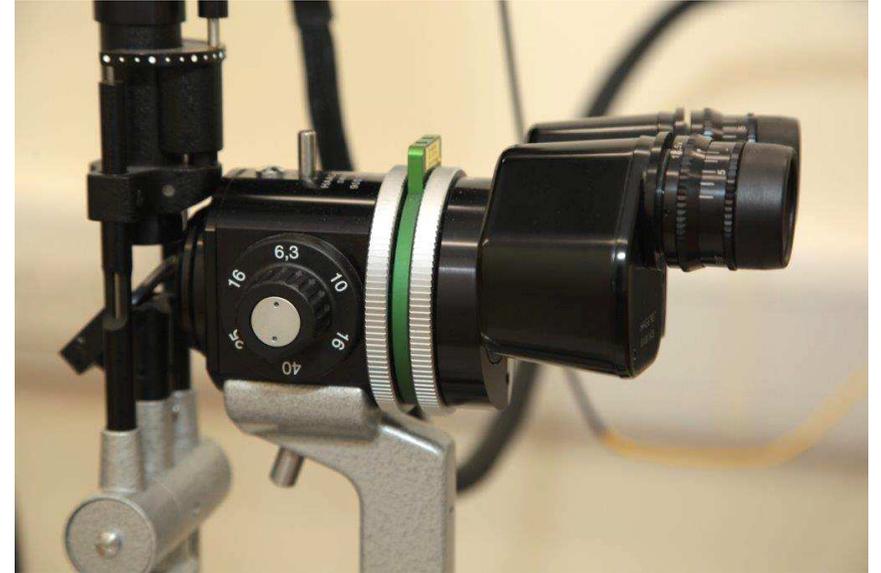
**Ashford Hospital**  
London Road  
Ashford, Middlesex  
TW15 3AA  
Tel: **01784 884488**

**St. Peter's Hospital**  
Guildford Road  
Chertsey, Surrey  
KT16 0PZ.  
Tel: **01932 872000**

Website: [www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk](http://www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk)

# Argon Laser Treatment

## Ophthalmology Department



Additional information can be obtained by logging on to:

<http://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk/images/docs/pil/eye/pil3052.pdf>

or <http://www.djo.harvard.edu/site.php?url=/patients/pi/417>

or <http://www.charlessandy.co.uk/laser2.asp>

Details regarding our hospitals, including information regarding the department caring for you can be found by logging on to our website [www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk](http://www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk) or the National NHS Choices website [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) which includes an A to Z guide to health.

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### Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty. If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 01932 723553 or email [pals@asph.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@asph.nhs.uk). If you remain concerned, PALS can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

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## Further Information

If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the Eye Unit Helplines –

- Ashford Hospital 01784 884402
- St. Peter's Hospital 01932 722686

## Senior Nurses:

- Sister, Mandy Wilson,  
based at Ashford Hospital.
- Deputy Sister, Maggie Lewis,  
based at Ashford Hospital.
- Ophthalmic Nurse Practitioner, Jain Sidhu,  
based at St. Peter's Hospital.

## Argon Laser Treatment

### Where will the laser treatment take place?

This is a treatment undertaken within the eye clinic. You will be in the clinic for one to two hours as you may need eye drops to dilate your pupils before the laser treatment and these take time to work. The laser treatment itself takes 10 minutes to 40 minutes, depending on the amount of treatment required.

### What will happen in the clinic?

On arrival in the eye clinic, a nurse will test your vision.

Drops will then be put into your eyes to enlarge your pupils. This allows the doctor to see the back of your eyes.

These drops take between 20 - 40 minutes to work.

You will be able to discuss the procedure with the doctor when you sign the consent form.

### What happens during the laser treatment?

You will sit at a machine very similar to the machine which is used to measure your eye pressure and you will be asked to put your chin on the chin rest.

A small contact lens will be placed on the front of your eye. You do not feel any pain, as local anaesthetic drops will be used, but you will be aware of flashes of light. This is the laser.

After treatment you will find that your vision is reduced for a few hours. This is due in part to the dilating drops and partly due to the bright light from the laser beam.

**THEREFORE YOU SHOULD NOT DRIVE AFTER YOUR TREATMENT.**

**What are the potential risks involved in this treatment?**

- Your vision will be blurred after treatment for up to 8 hours due to the dilating drops
- Swelling of the macula (macular oedema). This usually improves with time
- On rare occasions the eye can become red and painful
- There is a small risk of the vision becoming worse
- Sometimes a second treatment is needed
- Temporary reduced night vision for several hours
- Temporary reduced colour vision for several hours
- Laser treatment may cause some loss of peripheral vision, depending on your eye condition. The aim of argon laser is to preserve central and colour vision.

**What are the benefits of this treatment?**

This depends on the reason for the laser treatment. In diabetic eye disease the treatment seals leaking blood vessels and clears swelling. In retinal tears the laser seals the tear, preventing retinal detachment. In glaucoma it will open a drainage channel to reduce the pressure in your eye.

**What happens after the laser treatment?**

After the treatment you are free to go home. We will usually ask you to make a follow up appointment to come back to clinic.

You may find your vision is blurred for the next few hours.

Some people experience floaters and occasional headaches for up to a week after the treatment.