

Patient information factsheet

Pan retinal photocoagulation (PRP)

Why do I need PRP?

Due to your diabetes your retina (the light sensitive layer at the back of your eye) has new, abnormal blood vessels growing on it. Unless we treat them they are likely to continue to grow and bleed. This would affect your vision and could cause severe, permanent eye damage.

What is PRP?

Pan retinal photocoagulation (PRP) involves using a laser to make small burns on your peripheral retina. This should make the new blood vessels shrink and disappear. PRP has been used for many years and is the most effective treatment for this problem.

What happens during the treatment?

We will check your vision (please bring your glasses)

We will give you eye drops to enlarge your pupil

When you are seated in front of the laser machine we will give you more drops to numb the front of your eye.

A beam of laser light is directed at the retina to produce multiple small scars.

You may experience some discomfort during the treatment. This is usually slight

.If you experience more severe discomfort you should inform the laser doctor so an alternative way of delivering the laser can be considered.

What happens after the treatment?

Your eyes will be temporarily dazzled by the laser light. This effect wears off after a few hours

You may get a slight headache during these first few hours .If so take your usual painkiller.

If the pain continues for more than a few hours or if your eye shows a marked drop in vision it may be that the pressure in your eye has risen. If this happens ring:

Eye Casualty - 023 8079 6592 (Anytime - 24 hour service)

Important facts for drivers

This treatment may reduce your peripheral vision (the amount you can see out of the corner of your eyes) and affect your ability to drive. If you have a driving licence or plan to get one please discuss this with your laser surgeon. If you have had laser treatment to both eyes you need to inform the DVLA.

Further Appointments

Before you leave the eye department please book another appointment as we will need to continue to monitor your condition.

An important reminder

Please come to the hospital by bus or arrange for someone to take you home after your appointment. You should not drive nor operate machinery for the rest of the day.

For a translation of this document, an interpreter or a version in large print, Braille or on audio tape, please telephone 023 8079 4688.

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