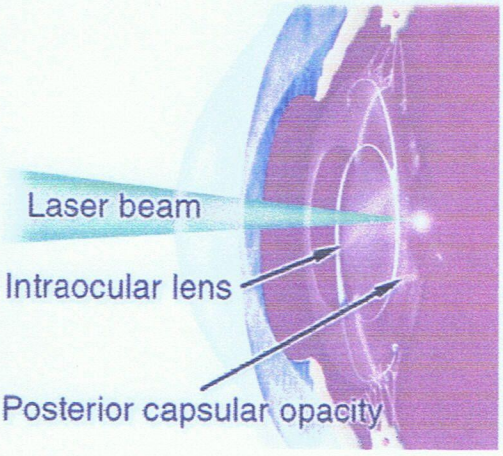
YAG LASER CAPSULOTOMY

Following **cataract surgery,** most patients will develop a hazy membrane behind the **intraocular lens implant (IOL)**, which results in diminished vision. The vision may also become blurred, hazy and the patient suffer significant glare and loss of visual acuity. This condition, known as **posterior capsule opacity (PCO)**, is sometimes referred to as "secondary cataract". **Cataracts,** however, never recur following cataract surgery.

Posterior Capsule Opacity

YAG Laser Capsulotomy



Posterior capsule opacity may be thought of as a regrowth process in the capsule or membrane, which contained the natural **lens** (cataract) of the eye. This condition of posterior capsule opacity is not preventable, but fortunately, is treatable with laser which nearly always restores or improves vision.

Posterior capsule opacity (PCO) may be treated with a convenient in-office laser procedure known as a YAG laser capsulotomy. In this procedure, a laser is used to open the hazy capsule situated behind the IOL implant. This usually requires **dilation** of the eye with drops prior to the procedure. The procedure takes only a few minutes, is entirely painless, and is usually not associated with any post-operative discomfort. Most Ophthalmologists will recommend an anti-inflammatory eye drop medication following the procedure.

Most patients can expect their vision to improve within a few days following the procedure. Patients should anticipate some floaters following this procedure, however, these will likely resolve within a few weeks. As with any eye procedure, patients should contact their Ophthalmologist immediately if visual acuity worsens or fails to improve. Patients may resume normal activities immediately following a YAG laser capsulotomy.