

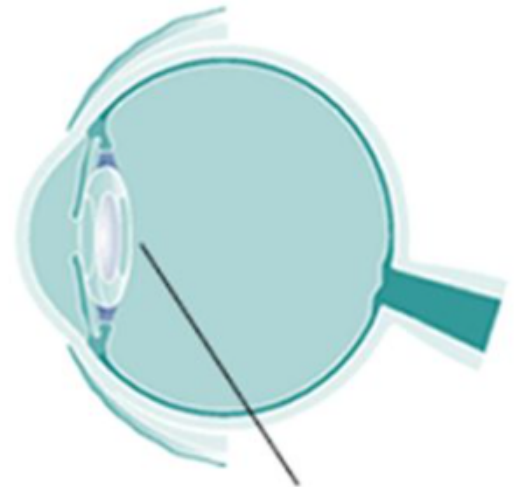
What is PCO?

PCO occurs in many patients after cataract surgery. During cataract surgery the nucleus and cortex of the natural lens are removed (phacoemulsification), all that is left of the natural lens is the capsular bag in order to keep the IOL in place. During phacoemulsification, some of the cells of the natural lens remain, and overtime continue to grow over the posterior capsule causing haze.

During cataract surgery the natural lens of your eye, which has become cloudy, is replaced by a clear artificial lens also known as an intraocular lens or IOL. This new artificial lens is placed inside your lens capsule, the membrane that originally held your natural lens. Your lens capsule is clear and remains clear following your cataract surgery.

PCO occurs because cells remaining after cataract surgery grow over the back (posterior) of the capsule causing it to thicken and become slightly opaque (cloudy). This means that light is less able to travel through to the retina at the back of your eye. Sight can become blurred and cloudy, or you may have problems with bright lights and glare.

Posterior Capsular Opacification (PCO)



A re-growth of cells on the back wall of the capsular bag, clouding vision.

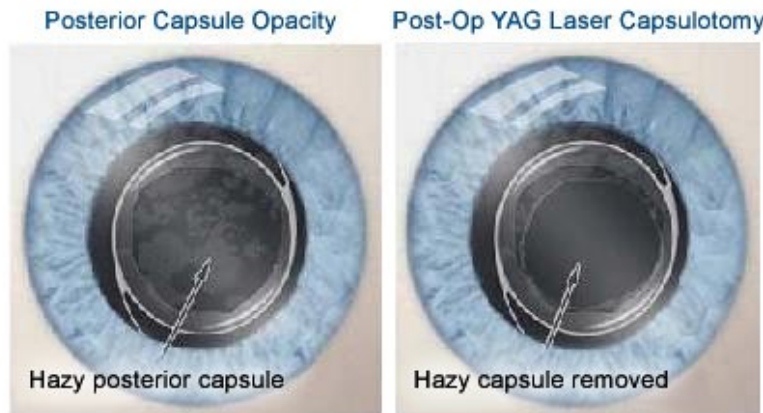


Photo Credit: <https://www.vision-and-eye-health.com>

How is PCO treated?

PCO is treated with a YAG capsulotomy (laser procedure). YAG stands for yttrium aluminum garnet and is a photo-disruptive laser (removes tissue, in this case cell growth). YAG capsulotomy procedures are about 5 minutes and do not require any down time. Patient's may be prescribed anti-inflammatory medication(s) to use for a short time after their procedure.

When does PCO occur?

PCO can occur days, weeks, months, or years after cataract surgery is completed. There is no prophylactic treatment or prevention. PCO is expected following cataract surgery.

Symptoms of PCO

Symptoms of a PCO are similar to the symptoms experienced with a cataract. They include:

- A gradual decrease of vision
- Vision that is blurry
- Glare around lights
- Sensitivity to sunlight
- Halos around lights