

# What To Expect During Treatment Day

## PROCEDURE

- Prior to your treatment, you will receive numbing eye drops (local anesthetic) to prevent discomfort. These drops will eliminate pain, but it is normal to feel pressure sensations.
- The non-treated eye may be patched or taped closed to better align the eye being treated.
- It will take a few minutes to properly position you under the microscope. An eye lid holder will be used to prevent any blinking. This may be a little uncomfortable, but not painful.
- You will be asked to focus on a red or green flashing light throughout the procedure. Your surgeon will monitor your eye through the microscope at all times. The doctor controls the laser and it is normal to start and stop occasionally during treatment.
- There will be two parts to your treatment. During the first part, the doctor will place a ring on your eye that will hold your eye still during creation of the flap. You will hear a mild vacuum sound and feel slight pressure on your eye. Your vision will begin to dim and may go black, much like having your eyes closed. This is normal.
- In the second part you will be asked to stare at the light for the remainder of your treatment. You will hear another vacuum sound accompanied by a tapping sound as the laser gently alters the refractive curvature of your eye.

## POST-TREATMENT

- Immediately after the treatment, antibiotic and anti-inflammatory drops are placed in the treated eyes.
- You may have protective clear plastic shields or goggles placed over the treated eyes.
- Please go directly home after your treatment. A nap or keeping your eyes closed for 2-4 hours can help relieve discomfort. It is normal to experience a burning sensation during this period, as the numbing drops wear off.
- When you wake up, remove the shields, and start using your antibiotic and steroid drops or other prescribed medicated eye drops. Wait about 5 minutes between drops. You should also use artificial tears at least 4 times a day for one month, regardless if you have dryness or not, on your eyes.
- Medicine, eye drops and their medical names may be changed by your doctor.

## OTHER NOTES

DO NOT RUB or squeeze your eyes. This could cause discomfort and possible damage. You may experience the following sensations after your treatment:

**Burning** – This usually occurs within the first hour after treatment and could last up to 4 hours. You may feel as though you're wearing a dirty contact lens or your eyes may feel sandy or scratchy. **DO NOT RUB THEM!**

**Watering/Tearing** – Your eyes will probably water or tear. This could happen for the first couple of days.

**Remember NOT to rub your eyes** – Just dab gently.

**Red/Swollen Eyes** – Your eyes may be slightly red and swollen during the first 48 hours. This is perfectly normal.

**Blurriness** – Your vision may be blurry for the first 48 to 72 hours and will gradually clear. You may notice a significant improvement by the end of a few days. Your vision may fluctuate for three months as you heal. This is normal.

**Ghosting/Glaring** – During the first week after your treatment, your vision may fluctuate slightly or you may experience some ghosting or glaring. This is normal and will usually improve.

**Light Sensitivity** – You may experience increased sensitivity to light for the few days after treatment. Sunglasses will help.