

Laser Photocoagulation

Treatment used by ophthalmic surgeons on an outpatient basis to repair the eye.

Why it is performed

The general intent is to preserve present vision and stop or slow down the progress of eye disease.

How to prepare

Eye drops are used to enlarge the pupil and freeze the front surface of the eye. In some instances, the entire eye may be numbed with an injection of local anesthetic.

How it is performed

The patient is placed in a seated position with the chin and forehead supported. A special contact lens is placed on the eye to focus the laser beam accurately. A laser light is directed through the pupil to the retina.

Results

It is a proven effective treatment for many eye conditions.

How it feels

The patient will see a flash of light and feel a warm sensation. Vision will be blurry for a brief time following the treatment.

What the risks are

Some temporary blurring of vision may occur. Extensive treatments can result in loss of some peripheral vision and reduction in night vision.