

What is a Pan Retinal laser Photocoagulation (PRP)?

Pan-retinal Photocoagulation (PRP) is a type of laser treatment for the eye. It is specialized laser treatment to the entire retina. The aim being to prevent abnormal new vessels on the retina and in the drainage system of the eyeball from growing and encourages existing ones to shrink and scar up. This prevents further bleeding within the eye that can cause sudden loss of vision including vitreous haemorrhage and prevents the devastating consequences of a high pressure within the eye called neovascular glaucoma.

What are the risks?

There is good scientific evidence that laser treatment significantly reduces the risk of your vision deteriorating severely.

However retinal laser can result in the following side effects:

- laser treatment can result in defects of the periphery of the vision or visual field
- you may notice changes in colour or contrast or brightness appreciation
- night vision may be affected
- vision may be worse after the treatment if there is swelling at the back of the eye (macular oedema), this may require further treatment

How do I prepare for the PRP?

- You may find it helpful to come to the procedure with a family member or friend. This is mainly because it is essential that you do not drive to and from the appointment.
- Please take all your normal medications prior to this treatment.
- You may eat and drink normally as you do not need to fast prior to the procedure.
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- **What can I expect during the procedure?**
- Firstly your vision will be checked and you will receive dilating drops in the eye to undergo the retinal laser procedure. These drops are to allow the Ophthalmologist to effectively perform the laser treatment.
- A local anaesthetic drop or injection may be used before the laser treatment is given, this is to alleviate any pain associated following the treatment.
- the laser treatment may be performed at a slit lamp - the same machine where you have had your eyes examined. It may also be performed using a head-mounted instrument - an indirect laser. Your Ophthalmologist will advise of which procedure you will be having prior to your treatment.
- Often a special contact lens is used that touches your eye, the laser procedure is then performed

- The treatment usually takes 15-30 minutes depending on how much treatment is required in your particular circumstance. It is often done over a number of different sessions.
- You may notice discomfort or a dull ache in the eye after the treatment which will often be relieved with simple pain relief such as (Paracetamol).
- It is normal for your vision will be “dazzled” or may seem darker after the treatment. This effect may last for 24-48 hours. It is not advisable to drive for up to 24 hours following treatment.