

# OAKLEIGH EYE CENTRE

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## AFTER-CATARACT

After-cataract is a secondary deterioration in vision following cataract surgery and is quite common. Probably about 50% of patients following cataract surgery will eventually need to have something done about after-cataract.

After-cataract is an opacity of your own lens membrane, which is retained to support the new lens during cataract surgery. Another name of this cellophane-like membrane is *posterior capsule*.

The posterior capsule following cataract surgery is normally quite clear, but as time goes on, it may become cloudy or wrinkled. This then leads to the term *after-cataract* or the recurrence of symptoms of the original cataract. If you have some after-cataract it is extremely easy to deal with and involves a simple painless laser treatment. This enables an opening to be made in the opaque capsule.

However, there are some risks with the procedure:

1. Rarely the pressure may go up immediately after the laser surgery.
2. There may be some decrease in vision due to retinal swelling, but this almost certainly will improve with time.
3. Rarely, the retina may become detached following *Posterior Capsulotomy*, but this is extremely unlikely and the incidence is well under 1%.