

LASER TREATMENT FOR RETINAL BREAK OR LATTICE DEGENERATION

ERIC MANN M.D., Ph.D.

A. INTRODUCTION

Retinal break is an opening on the retina, usually located at the periphery. There may be a hole, or tear. Without treatment, some retinal breaks may lead to retinal detachment (separation of the nerve tissue from the normal position). Lattice degeneration is a weak spot on the retina, which may lead to retinal detachment. Certain types of lattice degeneration may need treatment.

B. METHOD

Laser beam is aimed at the retinal break or lattice degeneration through a temporary contact lens. Eye drops are usually used for anesthesia, although retrobulbar anesthesia may be necessary (see separate form). The patient is required to sit on a stool in front of a laser machine.

C. BENEFITS

The laser beam uses thermal (heat) energy to seal the break or lattice, in an attempt to prevent retinal detachment. However, in spite of treatment, some breaks or lattice degeneration may continue to progress into a retinal detachment.

D. RISKS AND COMPLICATIONS:

1. Common:
 - a. Temporary glare and light sensitivity
 - b. Flashing light
 - c. Floaters
 - d. Mild irritation
 - e. Temporary inflammation
2. Uncommon:
 - a. Hemorrhage (bleeding)
 - b. CME (swelling of the reading center)
 - c. Development of scar tissue on the surface of the reading center
 - d. Visual deterioration
3. Other potential complications and risk not listed here may be discussed by the doctor.

E. ALTERNATIVES

Cryotherapy is the use of “cold energy” to seal the break or lattice degeneration.

F. POST TREATMENT COURSE:

Minimal restrictions are required, unless specified by the physician. The eye patched for 24 hours after the treatment if retrobulbar anesthesia is used.

PROCEDURE NOTE

Patient: _____

Date: _____

Surgeon: Dr. Eric Mann

MR#: _____

Procedure: Laser retinopexy _____

Indications: _____

Va OD _____ OS _____

Informed consent: All the risks, benefits, alternatives and intent of laser treatment with anesthesia were presented to the patient in an extensive discussion and in written form(s) _____. The patient understood laser treatment is performed not to improve vision but to hopefully prevent retinal detachment and further visual loss. The patient stated they had a good understanding of their clinical situation including the specific ocular and anesthetic risks (loss of vision, need for further surgery, and rarely loss of globe) and consented to laser treatment.

Treatment: () Under topical anesthesia.

() Under retrobulbar anesthesia: With the patient supine and fixating straight ahead, 3cc of 2% lidocaine was injected into the retrobulbar space using a #25 gauge 1.5 inch needle and a 10cc syringe. Adequate anesthesia and akinesia was obtained. Following treatment the eye was patched for 24 hours.

Using the argon green laser and a _____ lens, grade 2 intensity burns were applied as two to three rows, one spot width apart, to surround the _____. Laser parameters and pattern of treatment (avoiding retinal vessels) are below. Laser treatment was performed _____ complication. The patient tolerated the procedure well and left the laser suite in good condition.

Parameters: 0.1-0.2 sec, 500 micron (equivalent), _____ mW, and _____ total spots.

Post-operative care & management: **Pred Forte qid & Hyoscine bid for four days was prescribed.** The patient was instructed to return in follow-up in _____ or immediately upon any decreased vision, pain, side effects of meds, or symptoms of RD or RB (which were reviewed). Specific post-operative instructions included HOB elevated and restricted activities with no physical exertion.

ERIC S. MANN M.D./Ph.D.

DATE

PERIBULBAR & RETROBULBAR ANESTHESIA

Absence of pain (anesthesia) and immobilization of the eye (akinesia) are often necessary to allow effective laser and cryotherapy treatment or intraocular surgery. Both anesthesia and akinesia can be obtained to a variable degree by injection of anesthetic (Lidocaine and/or Marcaine) around and behind the eyeball prior to treatment or surgery.

The following are **common** effects of the anesthetic injection but are usually temporary:

1. Blurring of vision
2. Numbness and swelling around the eye
3. Ptosis (drooping of the eyelid)
4. Diplopia (double vision)

The following are **uncommon** complications of the anesthetic injection:

1. Retrobulbar or periorbital hemorrhage (bleeding behind or around the eyeball)
2. Globe perforation (puncture of the eyeball by the needle used for anesthetic injection)
3. Optic nerve injury or vascular damage (central retinal artery or vein occlusion)
4. Allergic reaction to the anesthetic
5. Seizure
6. Cardiorespiratory arrest (death)
7. Bilateral akinesia

These uncommon complications may result in permanent loss of vision, need for further surgery or treatment, or loss of the globe. Other less common complications may be discussed as well.

Post treatment care may include applying ointment to the eye and wearing a patch for 24 hours.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWING LASER/CRYOTHERAPY
TREATMENT**

1. You may resume all of your normal activities immediately except for heavy lifting, exercise or physical exertion which you may resume in 3 to 4 weeks.
2. You may have discomfort or a headache following laser/cryotherapy treatment. Please take Tylenol but **NO** aspirin, Ibuprofen (Advil), indomethacin (Indocin) or other NSAIDS for pain unless your medical doctor recommends you take an aspirin a day for your heart or to “thin” your blood.
3. Due to intense brightness of the laser beam, there is a light-induced “dazzling” or “flashbulb” effect, and consequently your vision may be slightly decreased after the laser treatment. It may require a few hours to recover from this glare effect.
4. Please take pain pills as instructed and call immediately if you have persistent pain or sudden, new onset decreased vision at office phone number listed below or 866-856-7882 (after hours).
5. If you received retrobulbar anesthesia, keep the treated eye patched for 24 hours.
6. If you received eye drop prescriptions, please follow directions on the bottle.

**317 Salem Place Ste. 150
Fairview Hgts., IL 62208
Phone: (618) 632-8100
Fax: (618) 632-8101**

**533 Couch Ave., Ste 255
Kirkwood, MO 63122
Phone: (314) 835-9400
Fax: (314) 835-9401**

RECEIPT OF POST-OP INSTRUCTIONS

I _____ have been given postoperative instruction information. I have had the opportunity to read, understand and ask questions regarding my planned surgical procedure(s). Dr. Mann has explained this procedure to me in depth. I have been informed in regard to the potential benefits, complications, risk and alternatives of the procedure. Sufficient time was allowed for me to ask questions and these questions were answered to my satisfaction.

Patient signature

Date

Witness signature

Date

INFORMED CONSENT

I, _____ have been given the brochure(s) on Laser treatment for retinal break or lattice degeneration and Peribulbar & Retrobulbar anesthesia

I have had the opportunity to read, understand and ask questions regarding this procedure(s). Dr. Mann has explained this procedure to me in depth. I have been informed in regard to the potential benefits, complications, risks and alternatives of the procedure. Sufficient time was allowed for me to ask questions and these questions were answered to my satisfaction.

Patient signature

date

Witness signature

time

**CONSENT SPECIAL/INFORMED TO
SURGERY OR OTHER PROCEDURE**

Name: _____

Date: _____

Medical record number _____

1. I hereby authorize Dr. Mann and / or such assistants, associates, or other health care providers that may be selected by him, to perform the following procedure (s)
LASER TREATMENT FOR RETINAL BREAK OR LIMITED RETINAL
DETACHMENT _____ Eye
2. Dr. Mann has discussed with me the procedure(s) listed above and the items of information that are briefly summarized below:
 - a. The nature and purpose of the proposed procedure(s): The laser beam uses thermal(heat) energy to seal the break or lattice degeneration, in an attempt to prevent retinal detachment
 - b. The risks and possible consequences of the proposed procedure(s), including the risk that treatment may not accomplish the desired objective(s) and including, but not limited to: temporary glare, sensitivity to light, flashing lights, floaters,, mild inflammation, hemorrhage, CME(swelling) development of scar tissues on the surface of the reading center, visual deterioration, or need for further surgery
 - c. All reasonable alternative treatment, including risks, probable effectiveness of each and consequences if this proposed treatment is not received: Cryotherapy is the use of “cold energy” to seal the break or lattice degeneration
3. I am aware that, in addition to the risk specifically described in Item 2 above, there are other risks, such as severe loss of blood, infection, cardiopulmonary arrest, respiratory difficulties, injury to proximate/adjacent blood vessels, nerves, organs or structures, unanticipated allergic reaction to substances, pressure/position related injuries and other risks related to the performance of any surgical procedure.
4. I acknowledge that no guarantees have been made to me as to the results of the procedure(s) and am also aware that complications and risks may occur despite precautions.
5. I consent to the performance of unforeseen operation(s) and procedure(s) in addition to or different from those now contemplated and describe herein that the named doctor and his associates or assistants may deem necessary or advisable during the course of the presently authorized procedure(s).
6. I consent to the administration of such anesthetics as may be considered appropriate by the physician responsible for anesthesia administration or such assistants or associates as may be selected by him. I understand that this procedure is to be performed using **retrobulbar/topical** anesthesia. I understand that all types of anesthesia involve some risk. I further understand that if a regional, spinal or epidural anesthesia is planned, it may be necessary to also administer a general anesthetic. I understand that the risk of a general, spinal, epidural or regional anesthesia include, but are not limited to, mouth and/or throat pain or injury, cardiopulmonary arrest, cardiac arrhythmias, heart attack, respiratory difficulties, stroke, brain damage, headache, backache and other sensory, nerve, focal and systemic injuries.

7. I also consent to the administration of blood or blood components, drugs, medicines and other substances considered advisable by the physician(s) responsible for this procedure and the use of x-rays or other diagnostic testing, procedures and devices, which the above-named physician or his associates, consultants or assistants may consider useful.

8. I hereby authorize The Retina Group Ltd. Dr. Eric Mann or staff to preserve for scientific or teaching purposes or to otherwise dispose of any tissues, parts, organs, or implants removed during this procedure.

9. For teaching or educational purposes, I consent to the admittance of students, staff or other observers to the operating and procedure rooms, and to the taking of any videos or photographs deemed appropriate or necessary by the physician in the course of the procedure(s). I also consent to the taking of photographs or videos for the purpose of documenting the condition or procedure in the medical record. I understand that if data, photographs, videos or other information are used for teaching/educational purposes or for scientific publication, that my (the patient's) identity will remain confidential unless otherwise authorized by the undersigned.

10. I certify that I have read or have had the above information read to me and that I understand the above consent to operation or diagnostic procedure, that the explanations referred to were made to my satisfaction and I hereby give my informed and voluntary consent to the proposed procedure(s) or operation(s).

Signature of patient:

If the patient is unable to give informed consent because of physical or mental incapacity or mental incapacity or is a minor (under 18 and unemancipated), complete the following: Patient is unable to give consent because _____

Witness to signature

I certify that I have explained to the above individual the nature, purpose, risk and potential benefits of the above procedure and have answered any questions that have been raised.

Signature of Physician