



# SWAGEL WOOTTON

E Y E I N S T I T U T E <sup>TM</sup>

## Secondary Cataract & YAG Laser Treatment

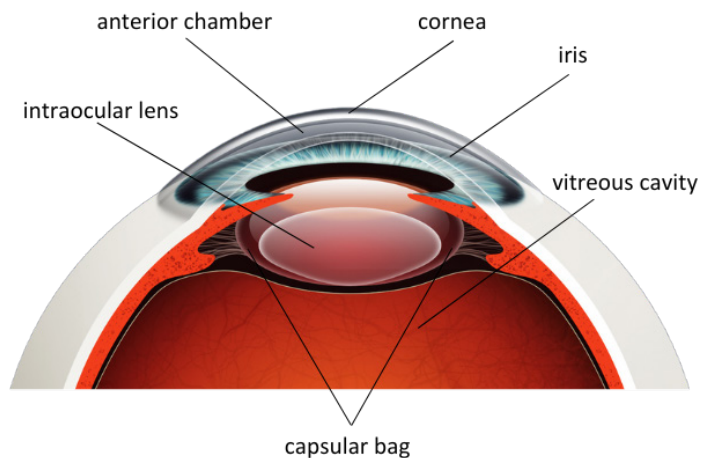
### What is a Secondary Cataract?

Once your natural lens has been removed and an IOL implanted, the implant does not cloud or turn opaque the same way your natural lens did (called a primary cataract). In some cases, the membrane, called the capsular bag, that surrounds your natural lens and will surround the IOL may turn cloudy or become opaque. Cloudiness on the capsular bag is called a **secondary cataract**. Treatment for a **secondary cataract** requires the surgeon to use a laser called a **YAG Laser** to break up the cloudy appearance of the membrane. Although the **YAG Laser** procedure is quick and easy for the patient, it is still consider outpatient surgery. Thus, the physician and facility are filing charges with your insurance for this medical condition. Secondary cataracts can cause blurry vision similar to the primary cataract.

### What is a YAG Laser?

A **YAG Laser** is a procedure in which your eye surgeon uses a laser to make an opening in the capsular bag after cataract surgery. The capsule is the thin, clear membrane that holds the lens in place. The opening lets light rays pass through. Sometimes, especially after cataract surgery, the capsule becomes cloudy or opaque, commonly referred to as a **secondary cataract**. Your vision becomes blurry. This procedure can improve your vision and takes only a few minutes.

Intraocular Lens: Eye in Cross-Section



- Secondary cataracts occur in about 20% of all post-operative cataract surgeries.
- Secondary cataracts develop regardless of the type of IOL implanted.
- The cost of your primary cataract surgery does not cover the cost of the secondary cataract treatment (YAG Laser).
- Some IOL packages include the cost of LASIK, however the YAG Laser is not a LASIK procedure and does not cover the cost of secondary cataract treatment.

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **FOR YOUR RECORDS**