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LARGE RETINAL HOLE FOLLOWING INJURY WITH Q-SWITCHED ND:YAG LASER

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The literature has very few case reports of a treating doctor being injured by a laser while administering treatment. This unusual and rare case report highlights the potential hazards that lasers pose for Medical Practitioners. The report throws light on the possible ocular injuries that can be caused by Cosmetic Lasers and ways that can prevent such debilitating injuries.

A Dermatology Post Graduate reported to us with complaints of sudden onset diminution of vision in her right eye. She had unprotected exposure to Q-Switched Nd:YAG Laser while performing a cosmetic procedure. Her BCVA in the right eye was 1/60. Anterior Segment examination was within normal limits. On Fundus examination, there was a large retinal hole (Approximately 2DD in size), supero-temporal to the superior vascular arcade, oozing blood in the vitreous cavity.

A barrage Laser (Double Frequency Nd:YAG Laser - 532 nm) was done around the retinal hole to prevent the development of Retinal Detachment. The large Retinal Hole was successfully barraged.

The patient did not develop retinal detachment, and the vitreous haemorrhage gradually absorbed, leading to the complete recovery of the vision of the patient. Her final BCVA was 6/6.

Long-term complications include Choroidal Neovascularisation at the site of injury, and long term follow up of the patient is required to keep a check for the same.

Lasers are widely used in cosmetic medicine, scientific research, and industry. The eye can be injured during cosmetic laser procedures involving the face. Accidental laser discharge during the preparation of a laser device and not using protective goggles are the main causes of laser injuries.

Lasers are being used on a widespread basis for cosmetic purposes. Users need to be aware of the potential hazards of such lasers and must use eye protection at all times while using the laser. Laser injuries to the eye can be devastating.