

GreenLight Laser Therapy

Your doctor has determined that the symptoms you are experiencing are due to Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH), also known as an enlarged prostate. Historically, this condition has been treated with medication or an invasive surgical procedure, Transurethral Resection of the Prostate (TURP). Today you have the opportunity to choose an advanced, minimally invasive treatment option known as GreenLight™ Laser Therapy.

What is BPH (Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia)?

BPH is a non-cancerous (benign) enlargement of the prostate. Your prostate grew to normal size during your teenage years. Usually, the prostate grows to the size of a walnut. The prostate may begin to grow again when a man reaches middle age. The reasons for this growth are not fully known. By the age of 80, 80% of men have BPH. BPH causes symptoms in many older men.

What are the Symptoms of an Enlarged Prostate?

An enlarged prostate presses on the urethra. The pressure can obstruct the flow of urine through the urethra. Obstruction of the flow of urine can cause problems, including:

- Frequent urination, especially at night (*nocturia*)
- Weak urine flow
- Sudden urge to urinate (*urgency*)
- Trouble starting and stopping your urine stream (*hesitation*)
- Inability to completely empty your bladder
- Pushing or straining to urinate
- Pain or burning during urination

What is GreenLight™ Laser Therapy?

GreenLight™ Laser Therapy is a minimally invasive procedure performed with a small fibre that is inserted into the urethra through a cystoscope. The fibre delivers high powered laser energy which quickly heats up the prostate tissue, causing the tissue to vaporize. This process is continued until all of the enlarged prostate tissue has been removed. Natural urine flow is rapidly restored and urinary symptoms are quickly relieved in most patients.

GreenLight Laser Therapy combines the effectiveness of the “gold standard” transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP) surgical procedure with fewer side effects. The result is a wide open channel for urine flow to pass through, but with fewer risks of side effects, including erectile dysfunction and bleeding, common with TURP.

GreenLight Laser Therapy can be performed in a hospital outpatient centre or specially equipped clinic. Typically no overnight stay is needed. However, in some cases when a patient travels a long distance, has other medical conditions to consider, or is in frail condition an overnight stay may be recommended.

What to Expect DURING Your GreenLight™ Laser Therapy Treatment

First, the doctor will perform an assessment to see if you are a candidate for this therapy. Then, on the day of your procedure, you will come to the hospital. You should have someone drive you home since this an outpatient procedure.

Each patient is different, therefore treatment procedures may vary. Below is a general description of the procedure and what to expect:

1. Before treatment your doctor may give you medication to help you relax during the procedure. Other medications that your doctor may give you are to avoid infections.
2. You may be asked to empty your bladder.
3. You will be brought into the procedure room and moved to the examination couch where you will lie on your back. You will be provided anaesthetic that will allow you to sleep through the entire procedure.
4. Once you are asleep or the anaesthetic block takes effect, your doctor will insert a cystoscope through the urethra.
5. The laser fibre is introduced through the cystoscope and advanced into the urethra at the location of the prostate.
6. The doctor systematically vaporizes the enlarged prostate tissue until the obstruction is removed.
7. At the end of the procedure the doctor may place a temporary catheter to let urine drain from your bladder.

What to Expect AFTER Your GreenLight™ Laser Therapy Treatment

Since this is an outpatient procedure, you will typically go home within a few hours after treatment. You should have someone drive you home after the procedure. If a catheter was placed in your bladder at the end of the procedure, it will typically be removed within 24 hours. However, patients with compromised bladder function or those who have required prolonged catheterization as a result of severe urinary symptoms may require a catheter for a longer period of time.

Most patients experience very rapid relief of symptoms and a dramatic improvement in urine flow. This typically occurs within 24 hours of the procedure. However, medical history, health condition and other factors can influence treatment recovery. You may

experience mild discomfort such as slight burning during urination and small amounts of blood in your urine for a week or so. Also, depending on the condition of your bladder, you may experience greater frequency and urge to urinate. This will resolve over time as your bladder adjusts now that the obstruction in your urethra has been removed.

What are the ADVANTAGES of a GreenLight Laser Therapy Treatment?

- Rapid urine flow improvement
- Quick return to normal activities
- Virtually bloodless procedure
- A definitive, long lasting treatment
- Less than 1% reported cases of erectile dysfunction
- Short-term or possibly no catheterization (*less than 24 hours in most cases*)
- Outpatient procedure in otherwise healthy patients
- Over 200,000 patients treated worldwide

What are the RISKS of a GreenLight™ Laser Therapy Treatment?

Every medical treatment may have side effects. The same is true for GreenLight Laser Therapy. Below are the most common side effects experienced with GreenLight:

- Hematuria – Blood in the urine
- Bladder spasm or urgency – Cramping in the bladder or an urgent need to urinate
- Irritation of the urinary tract – Frequent urination, burning sensation

You should contact your doctor immediately if:

- You see large amounts of blood (*a spoonful or more*) in your urine
- You see blood that is bright red in colour
- You have a temperature in excess of 101°
- You experience chills or shaking

Also, if a catheter was placed; contact your doctor immediately if:

- Your urine drainage bag is not filling with urine
- There is leaking around the catheter

What are the Alternative Treatments for BPH?

Alternative treatments for BPH are:

- Watchful waiting
- Drug therapy

- Microwave or heat therapies
- Other lasers
- More invasive surgical procedures

Frequently Asked Questions about GreenLight and Enlarged Prostate

Q. Is BPH a type of cancer?

A. No, BPH is not a type of cancer

Q. Do I have to stay in the hospital after a GreenLight procedure?

A. GreenLight is generally an out-patient procedure. Typically, no overnight stay in the hospital is required, but it will depend on your individual condition.

Q. Will the GreenLight Laser Therapy treatment affect my sexual function?

A. More than 99% of patients treated with GreenLight Laser Therapy did NOT experience any form of erectile dysfunction following treatment. If you are sexually active, you can look forward to remaining so.

Q. How long before my symptoms improve?

A. Most patients experience very rapid relief of symptoms and improvement in urine flow within 24 hours of the procedure. However, medical history, health conditions, and other factors can influence treatment and recovery.

Q. Will I continue to need BPH medications after the GreenLight Laser Therapy treatment?

A. As with any medication, ask your doctor what regimen is appropriate for you. However, most patients are able to discontinue taking their BPH medications within a few weeks after the treatment.

Q. How soon can I return to work?

A. Most patients can resume normal activities within a couple of days. Strenuous activities can be resumed within two weeks. Your urologist will discuss this and your specific condition with you during your consultation.

Q. How long do the results last?

A. Clinical studies report that GreenLight Laser Therapy offers rapid and lasting symptom relief for at least five years. *(Based on 5 year follow-up data).*

Q. Is GreenLight Laser Therapy covered by insurance?

A. GreenLight Laser Therapy is covered by many private insurers. However you are advised to discuss this with your insurer prior to embarking on a course of treatment as individual policies may differ.