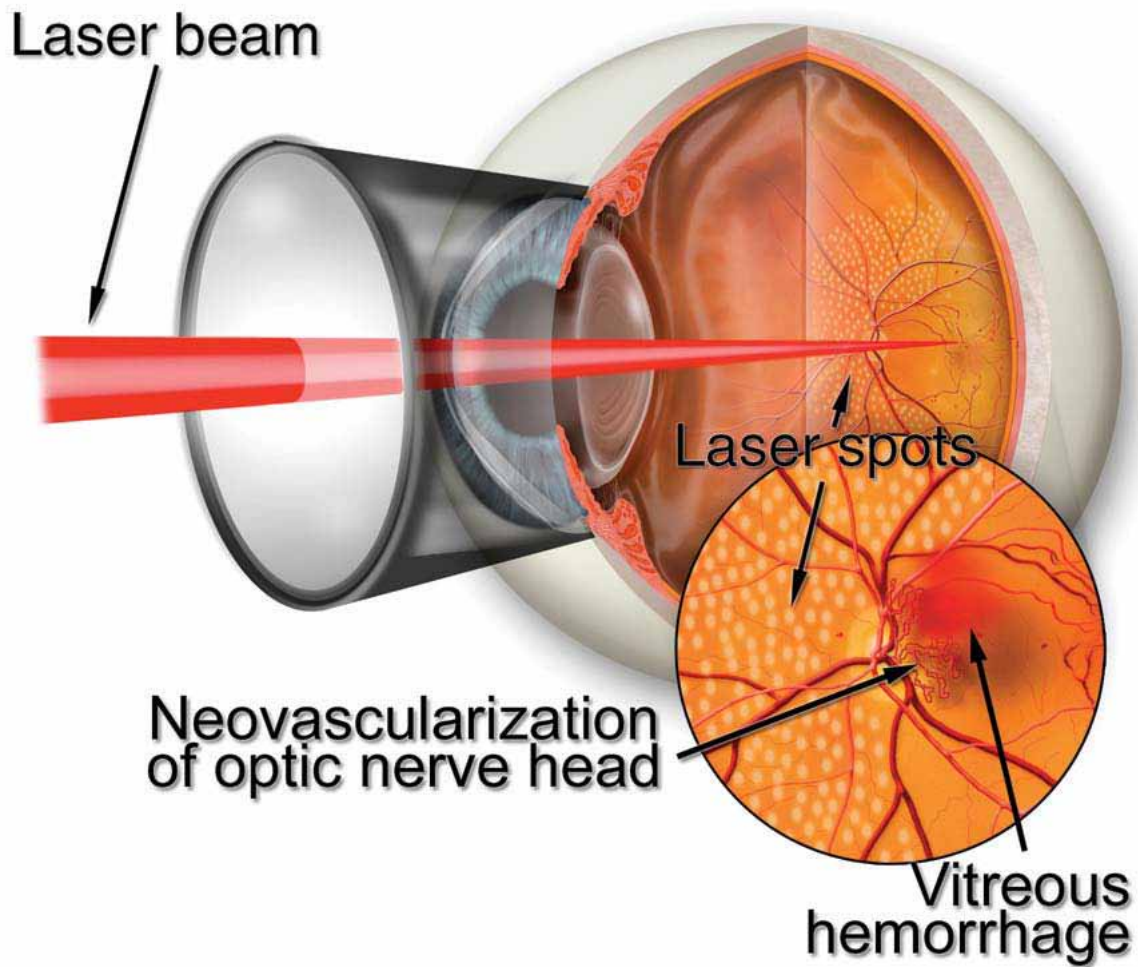


## Treatments:

### *Laser Photocoagulation*



In this illustration, a thermal laser is being used to cauterize the retina in order to treat retinal neovascularization. A special contact lens is used to aim the laser at a precise location on the retina.

## Treatments:

### *Laser Photocoagulation*

Laser photocoagulation is one of the most common treatment tools used by both retina specialists and general eye surgeons. Photocoagulation is also known as a “hot” laser treatment since it uses heat energy to cauterize the retina and areas of retinal disease. It is commonly used to treat retinal tears, retinal detachment, retinal vein occlusions, diabetic retinopathy, and age-related macular degeneration.

This procedure is performed in the office setting, either in an examination room or in a specialized laser room. Usually, only topical drops are necessary for comfort during the laser treatment. However, a local anesthetic similar to Novocaine may be recommended for some procedures.

In this treatment, laser light rays are directed into the eye using a special contact lens or handheld lens used by the doctor. The laser is focused precisely on the retinal layers using a slit lamp microscope or a headpiece. The treatment lasts anywhere from a few minutes to 30 minutes, depending on the extent of laser necessary.

Patients may not be able to drive for several hours after surgery due to blurred vision in the treated eye, but patients may go home immediately following treatment. There are usually no restrictions to activity following a retinal laser procedure, but be sure to discuss your specific case with your physician.

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