

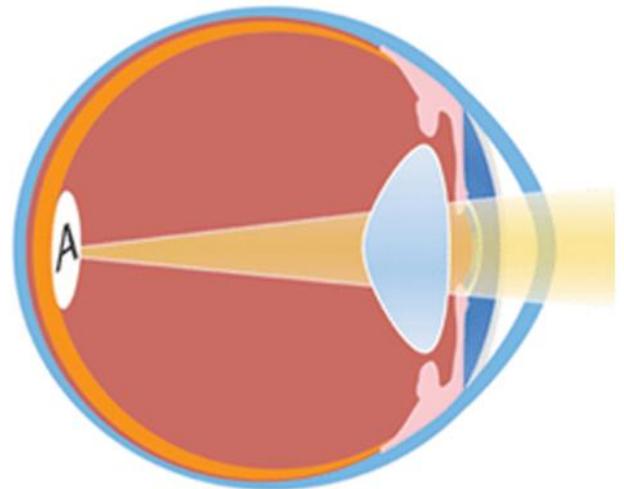
Cataract Frequently Asked Questions

What is a cataract?

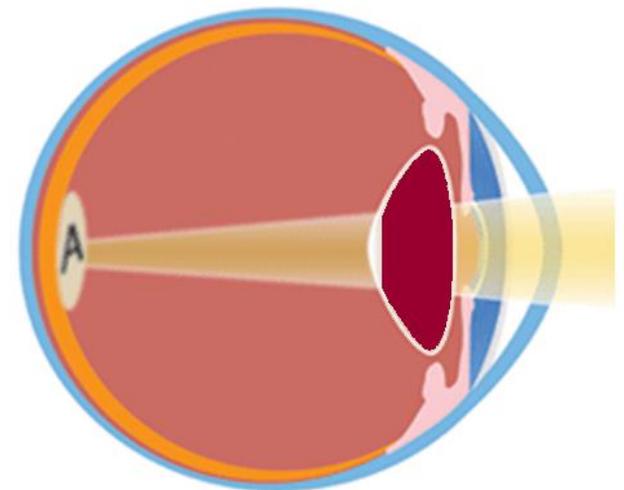
A cataract is a clouding of the lens inside the eye. As this lens becomes cloudy, less light gets into the eye and the vision can seem cloudy or blurred. Cataracts develop as a result of aging. Cataracts can also develop from trauma to the eye, certain medical conditions, related surgeries, and the use of some medications.

Symptoms of Cataracts

- Increased haziness causing blurred or distorted vision
- Difficulty seeing details at distance
- Difficulty with driving
- Night time glare, especially with oncoming headlights
- Halos or colored rings around lights
- Loss of contrast or change in color vision
- Increasing nearsightedness
- Increasing need for more light to see clearly
- Frequently changing eyeglass prescription
- Double vision with only one eye open
- Eyes do not work together



A normal, clear lens focuses light on the retina.



A lens clouded by cataracts results in blurred vision.

What is cataract surgery?

Cataract surgery is a microsurgical procedure that removes your cloudy, dysfunctional natural lens and replaces it with a clear, artificial implant lens. In many cases, cataract surgery can also provide some vision correction depending on what Implant Lens you choose. Premium Lenses offer less dependency on glasses and a wider range of vision without glasses. These Premium Lenses involve an additional cost above and beyond what your insurance covers.

How do I know when to have cataract surgery?

Although we can tell you if you have cataracts, the decision as to when you should have cataract surgery is up to you. When you feel that you do not see as well as you want or need to for your daily activities, it may be time to consider cataract surgery.

What do I need to do if I decide that I am ready for surgery?

When you are ready for surgery, please call our office and ask to speak with the Surgical Coordinator who can answer any questions and can schedule your surgery. Please keep in mind that our doctors schedule 2-6 weeks in advance for surgery. If you have cataracts in both eyes, it is safe to have surgery for each eye 1 week apart in most cases.

Do I need a Medical Clearance?

Before your procedure, we will need your Primary Care Physician/Internist/Cardiologist to clear you medically for the procedure. Once you schedule your surgery, please call to make an appointment with their office, which should be within 1-3 weeks before your surgery. Once you schedule your surgery, we will provide you with the Medical Clearance form, which includes all the requirements for a medical clearance. Please take this form to your appointment and give it to your doctor.

Will I need someone to drive me?

A responsible adult (family or friend) must be available for your ride home on the day of the procedure. You should arrange to have a driver to your 1 day post-operative appointment. During that appointment, you will discuss with the doctor when you can resume driving.

Does my insurance cover the surgery?

Cataract Surgery is considered a covered expense if it is medically necessary. Our office, Specialty Surgical Center, and the Anesthesiologist will bill your insurance for the medical portion of the procedure. If you have chosen a Premium Lens (Toric, Crystalens, Restor/Tecnis, Symfony) the fee will be due at the preoperative appointment at our office.