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Implant Lens and Laser Options for Cataract Surgery

During the time of cataract surgery, your doctor will remove the cloudy lens and repl ace it with a new artificial clear lens. Often, this new lens can have a portion of your current glasses prescription built in. In some cases, there may be a lens that can give you a wider range of vision.

When we talk about your vision, we talk about three different **targets**:

Distance: Normal everyday walking around, street signs, driving
Intermediate: Computer, interpersonal, dashboard
Reading: Reading the newspaper or book, reading a menu, checking the time on your watch, and using your cell phone

A portion of your prescription may also be related to **astigmatism**. Astigmatism is when the eye is not perfectly round and is curved more in one direction than the other. Astigmatism can cause blur and distortion of vision for many patients.

Some patients may be more motivated to have the best possible range of vision without glasses. There are Implant Lenses designed to give patients more than one of the three vision targets. Although there is no perfect lens, these lenses provide a greater range of vision and offer less dependence on glasses. Multifocal lenses may not be ideal for some patients depending on the health of the eye.

Standard Lens

This implant lens is designed to give the patient good vision (without glasses) at one target if there is no astigmatism. The standard lens can be set at any one of the three targets mentioned above.

- Distance Target (most common): The target of the lens is aimed at good distance vision without glasses. Patients will need to wear glasses for reading and some intermediate tasks.
- Reading Target (for patients who are naturally near sighted and enjoy reading without glasses): A reading target can be set for the lens and patients will simply continue to wear glasses for distance.

NOTE: If there is astigmatism, then a patient may need to wear glasses at any of the targets to get their best vision.

Toric Lens

If a patient has a certain degree of astigmatism, a Toric lens may be recommended. This implant lens is designed to give the patient good vision (without glasses) at one target when there is astigmatism. The Toric lens can be set at the same targets as the Standard lens but addresses the astigmatism that the Standard lens does not correct.

Crystalens
The Crystalens is a flexible lens designed to work like the natural lens of the eye. It typically gives very good distance and intermediate vision without glasses. In addition, approximately 50% of patients with a Crystalens implant in both eyes do not require reading glasses, whereas some patients may require weak over-the-counter glasses for extended reading or for reading fine print. Many Crystalens patients enjoy independence from reading glasses for everyday tasks such as reading price tags, menus, and cell phones. The Crystalens is also available in an astigmatism-fixing toric version called Trulign.

ReSTOR Activefocus/Tecnis Multifocal
The ReSTOR and Tecnis are Multifocal lenses that are a good choice for patients who want good distance and reading vision without glasses. Patients with certain retina or cornea issues may not be a candidate for this lens, per recommendation from your doctor. Multifocal lenses have a 30% increased chance of causing significant haloes around light at night.

Tecnis Symfony
The Symfony Lens is an extended depth of focus lens. It functions very much like the Crystalens in giving good distance and intermediate vision, with only 25% of patients requiring reading glasses. The Symfony has a 15% chance of causing spider-webs around lights at night. The Symfony Lens is also available in an astigmatism-fixing version.

Femtosecond Laser Assisted
The advanced Femtosecond Laser is a technological option for cataract surgery. The laser performs steps of the procedure that would otherwise be done by hand. It breaks up the nucleus of the cataract, makes the opening in the capsule, and makes accurate incisions at the edge of the cornea for smaller amounts of pre-existing astigmatism.

The calculations designed to "hit" your desired target with your chosen implant lens are pretty good, but not perfect. If we miss the target, which is possible with any lens (and more likely if you have had previous LASIK), then you can fix any leftover prescription needed with wearing glasses or doing additional surgery. The surgical options include a Lens Exchange, a Piggyback Lens, or PRK/LASIK, and may involve additional fees.

The decision of when to proceed with Cataract Surgery is completely up to you. When you do proceed with the surgery, there may be several options for you regarding the implant lenses. Together with your doctor, you will determine what your goal is for your vision after cataract surgery. Your doctor will recommend the lens options available based on your individual medical history, such as pre-existing astigmatism and other macular/retinal concerns.

The decision of your implant lens is completely up to you as well. We understand that this is a financial and a lifestyle decision. Please feel free to call our office with any questions you may have and we will try to provide you with all the information for you to make the best decision for your surgery based on the goals you may have for your vision.