

CATARACT

A cataract is the haziness or cloudiness of the lens inside your eye, behind the pupil. This clouding of the lens, which usually is very clear, is most often the result of aging or injury. In rare cases, it can result from taking certain medications over a long period of time.

Cataracts result in poor vision, which **cannot** be improved with glasses or contact lenses. Surgical removal of the cloudy lens is the only way to correct this problem. Usually, an artificial lens known as an intraocular lens is placed in the eye at the time of surgery to replace your cloudy lens.

The surgery is performed at an outpatient surgical center, usually designated by your insurance company. A staff member will assist you in setting your surgery date and time. A staff member will also assist you in understanding the cost of the surgery and the filing of your insurance. Please feel free to ask any questions you may have about the surgery or the fees.

Although you will be at the surgery center for about two hours for pre-operative procedures and data collection, the surgery itself only lasts about ten minutes. Your eye will be dilated for surgery and you will be given a sedative but you will not be “put to sleep” for the procedure.

Be sure to read your pre-operative directions carefully. They will guide you concerning the eye drops you need to use **BEFORE** surgery, as well as provide information about eating, drinking, and taking medications before surgery.

Be sure to read your post-operative directions carefully. They will guide you concerning the eye drops you need to use **AFTER** surgery. These directions will also give information about activity restrictions and eye protection following the surgery.

For each eye, you will need to be seen the day after surgery at our office and approximately one week later. Once released from our care we will direct you back to your referring optometrists for further care and new glasses.

