

# EYE DROPS FOR CATARACT SURGERY

Cataract surgery can provide excellent vision through removal of the cataract and simultaneous reduction of nearsightedness, farsightedness, and/or astigmatism. Medications in the form of eye drops are used before and after surgery to ensure proper healing, prevent infection, and limit scarring. These drops are mandatory and are important in achieving the best outcomes after surgery.

Medications can be expensive, particularly brand name prescriptions. At Eye Center of Texas, we offer both a brand name option for drops and a generic option for drops. You can have brand name medications, or you can have the generic formulations – it's your choice, but we want you to make an educated decision.

In general, there are three medications prescribed for cataract surgery — an antibiotic, a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) medication, and a steroid medication, which also treats inflammation. Thankfully, cataract surgery is a very safe procedure with a low likelihood of complications whether you choose brand name or generic medications. Infection rate is very low with no difference being shown between brand name antibiotic medications or generic antibiotic medications. There have been increased reports of corneal complications with generic NSAID formulations however these complications have also been seen with the brand name products at a lesser rate. We recommend the brand name NSAID. In our opinion, the brand name vs. generic difference is most significant in the steroid medication, as generic ocular steroids have been shown to be less effective in decreasing inflammation; therefore, we recommend the brand name steroid and will give you a coupon to use at the pharmacy to help you afford the brand name steroid.

If your insurance company covers the medications, then your co-pay may be similar with a brand name drop or a generic drop. Typical co-pay amounts are \$10-\$50 per medication. The amount you pay can also depend on whether or not you have met your deductible for your pharmacy plan. If you have not met your deductible or are paying out of pocket without insurance, the generic medications will certainly be less expensive than the branded options.

Eye Center of Texas recommends and will write a prescription for the brand name medications unless you request a generic prescription be written for you. For Medicaid patients, we will write only for medications covered by Medicaid unless you request otherwise.

I have read and understand the above information regarding the use of brand name medications vs. generic medications around cataract surgery. I understand that branded medications will be prescribed for me unless I ask for the generic formulations.

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PATIENT SIGNATURE DATE

## MEDICAID

I understand appropriate medications on the Medicaid formulary will be prescribed to me for my cataract surgery.

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PATIENT SIGNATURE DATE