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WHAT IS A CATARACT AND HOW IS IT TREATED?

The lens in the eye can become cloudy and hard, a condition known as a cataract. Cataracts can develop from normal aging, from an eye injury, or if you have taken medications known as steroids. Cataracts may cause blurred vision, dulled vision, sensitivity to light and glare, and/or ghost images. If the cataract changes vision so much that it interferes with your daily life, the cataract may need to be removed. Surgery is the only way to remove a cataract. You can decide not to have the cataract removed. If you don't have the surgery, your vision loss from the cataract will continue to get worse.

HOW WILL REMOVING THE CATARACT AFFECT MY VISION?

The goal of cataract surgery is to correct the decreased vision that was caused by the cataract. During the surgery, the ophthalmologist (eye surgeon) removes the cataract and puts in a new artificial lens called an intraocular lens or IOL. Cataract surgery will not correct other causes of decreased vision, such as glaucoma, diabetes, or age-related macular degeneration. Most people still need to wear glasses or contact lens after cataract surgery for either near and/or distance vision and astigmatism.

WHAT TYPES OF IOLs ARE AVAILABLE?

Your ophthalmologist will help you decide on the type of IOL that will replace your cloudy lens. There are IOLs available to treat nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia), and astigmatism. IOLs usually provide either near, intermediate or distance vision: these single focus lenses are called monofocal IOLs. Some newer IOLs can provide for near, intermediate, and distance vision: these multiple focus lenses are called multifocal IOLs. IOLs that treat astigmatism are called toric IOLs. You can also have one eye corrected for near vision, and the other for distance vision, a choice called monovision.**

WHAT IS ASTIGMATISM? ARE THERE OTHER TREATMENTS FOR IT?

Patients with nearsightedness and farsightedness often also have astigmatism. An astigmatism is caused by an irregularly shaped cornea; instead of being round like a basketball, the cornea is shaped like a football. This can make your vision blurry. In addition to toric IOLs, astigmatism can be reduced by glasses, contact lenses, and refractive surgery (LASIK or PRK). Any attempt at astigmatism reduction during cataract surgery could result in over- or under correction, in which case glasses, contact lenses, or another procedure may be needed.

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR RISKS OF CATARACT SURGERY?

All operations and procedures are risky and can result in unsuccessful results, complications, injury, or even death, from both known and unknown causes. The major risks of cataract surgery include, but are not limited to bleeding; infection; injury to parts of the eye and nearby structures from the anesthesia, the operation itself, or pieces of the lens that cannot be removed; high eye pressure; a detached retina, and a droopy eyelid.

Depending upon your eye and the type of IOL, you may have increased night glare or halos, double vision, ghost images, impaired depth perception, blurry vision, and trouble driving at night. The ophthalmologist might not be able to put in the IOL you choose. In addition, the IOL may later need to be repositioned or replaced. Additional surgeries are not included in the fee for this procedure.

Depending upon the type of anesthesia, other risks are possible, including cardiac and respiratory problems, and, in rare cases, death. Cataract surgery involves systemic intravenous anesthesia and anesthesia of the eye itself. We try to balance the risks of anesthesia with your comfort and safety. Systemic anesthesia will be either **Monitored Anesthesia Care (MAC)** which keeps you comfortable and calm but not asleep, or **General Anesthesia** in which you are asleep. Eye anesthesia will be either **Topical**, using eyedrop anesthetics, or **Block**, in which anesthetic injections are given around the eye.

The plan for my surgery is to use MAC General and Topical Block anesthesia

EYE TO BE OPERATED ON: RIGHT LEFT

Monofocal IOL / Glasses Option

I wish to have a cataract operation with a monofocal IOL. I want my vision to rest in the DISTANCE / INTERMEDIATE / NEAR (circle) and I will wear glasses for _____ (state "near" and/or "distance") vision.

Even in the DISTANCE / INTERMEDIATE / NEAR (circle) my eye will likely see better with glasses.

The following options have an extra cost in addition to the standard cataract surgery fees billed to your insurance, please see the Notice of Exclusions from Insurance Benefits Form:

Toric monofocal IOL / Glasses Option for Astigmatism Reduction

I wish to have a cataract operation with a **toric monofocal IOL**. I want my vision to rest in the DISTANCE / INTERMEDIATE / NEAR (circle) and I will wear glasses for _____ (state "near" and/or "distance") vision.

Even in the DISTANCE / INTERMEDIATE / NEAR (circle) my eye will likely see better with glasses.

Multifocal IOL Option (may still need glasses)

I wish to have a cataract operation with a **PanOptix multifocal IOL** implant. I will have a range of focus at distance and intermediate but may still need glasses for some activities. These lens may cause glare and halos at night that my persist.

Extended Depth of Focus IOL Option (may still need glasses)

I wish to have a cataract operation with a **Vivity extended depth of focus IOL** implant. I will have a range of focus at distance and intermediate but will still need glasses for some activities, specifically at near.

PATIENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF RISKS

There is no guarantee that cataract surgery or astigmatism reduction will improve your vision. Under- or over correction may occur and glasses may be needed to correct your vision to its full potential. As a result of the surgery and/or anesthesia, it is possible that your vision could be made worse. In some cases, complications may occur weeks, months or even years later. These and other complications may result in poor vision, total loss of vision, or even loss of the eye in rare situations. You may need additional treatment or surgery to treat these complications. This additional treatment is not included in the fee for this procedure.

I understand that it is impossible for the doctor to inform me of every possible complication that may occur. By signing below, I agree that my doctor has answered all of my questions, that I have been offered a copy of this consent form, and that I understand and accept the risks, benefits, and alternatives of cataract surgery. I have checked my choice for astigmatism correction and type of IOL.

Patient's name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Patient signature (or person authorized to sign for patient) Date