

CATARACT SURGERY PATIENT INFORMATION

I understand that the following factors are important in making my decision to proceed with cataract surgery:

- 1. Elective Surgery:** Cataract/Lens Extraction surgery is an elective procedure. There is seldom any urgency for this operation and I am proceeding because Dr Hogden and I have agreed that the benefits outweigh the risks for my eyes at this stage.
- 2. Nature of Surgery:** My natural lens will be surgically removed and replaced with a permanent plastic artificial lens.
- 3. Alternatives to Surgery:** Glasses and contact lenses can improve my vision but not remove my cataract. Laser vision correction or implantable contact lenses can be effective in some cases but the effects are generally temporary and my cataract will still progress.
- 4. Likelihood of Success:** The chances of successful removal of my lens and implantation of an artificial lens without significant complications is approximately **98%**.
- 5. Possible Further Surgery:** It is possible that further surgery or laser correction will be needed to obtain the best possible outcome. I understand that this may incur additional cost.
- 6. Potential Minor Side Effects:** Some of the possible side effects include but are not limited to:
 - a. Temporary bruising
 - b. Dryness and irritation which is usually temporary but may be permanent
 - c. Increased number of visual floaters
 - d. Astigmatism, short or far sightedness
 - e. Droopy eyelid or other cosmetic changes
 - f. Persisting eye inflammation (iritis)
 - g. Retinal swelling (macular oedema)
 - h. Scar tissue behind the lens requiring removal with a laser
 - i. Malposition, rotation or damage of the implant lens

7. Potential Significant Complications: While cataract surgery is considered major eye surgery the risk of serious complications is very low. These include but are not limited to:

- a. Infection
- b. Bleeding
- c. Retinal detachment requiring laser or surgical repair
- d. High eye pressure and glaucoma
- e. Double vision
- f. Corneal decompensation potentially requiring corneal transplant
- g. Sympathetic ophthalmia – poor vision in both eyes
- h. Permanent reduction in quality of vision and in the worst case scenario blindness and/or loss of the eye

8. Lens Side Effects: I understand that artificial lenses are different to normal vision, especially compared to youth. Things I may notice include:

- a. Shift in colour perception
- b. A shiny appearance to my pupil
- c. An arc of darkness on the outer aspect of my vision
- d. Halos around lights at night time

Most of these symptoms will reduce or disappear over time but may be more noticeable to some people.

9. General Surgical Complications: As well as the above specific risks to the eye there is also a very small risk of general complications as with any form of surgery including adverse reactions to anaesthetic and drug reactions.

10. Any of the above may result in distorted or impaired vision or discomfort. The majority of complications are treatable but there is a small risk they may be permanent. Further surgery may be required including referral to another surgeon which may result in additional cost.

Refractive Outcomes:

I have chosen **distance correction / monovision / multifocal implant lenses**. I understand that all implant lenses carry some form of compromise and perfect distance, intermediate and close vision is unlikely to be achieved.

Distance

1. It is highly likely that I will need glasses for reading and possibly for distance
2. Night time halos around lights are much less likely with distance correcting lenses but still possible
3. Computer use is likely to be difficult without glasses

Monovision:

1. There is likely to be an adaption period while I adjust to my new vision which may last several months
2. Depth perception and peripheral vision will be reduced
3. Halos at night time are possible
4. Glasses use is still possible especially for prolonged near work or night time driving though most people do not need this

Multifocal lenses:

1. There is likely to be an adaption period while I adjust to my new vision which may last several months
2. Most people will notice significant halos around lights at night time but these usually fade with time (several months)
3. Most people with multifocal lenses do not need glasses afterwards but glasses use is still possible especially for prolonged fine near or computer work. Some people will find tinted glasses helpful for night time driving

Summary:

In the large majority of cases surgery is a safe, effective and permanent cure for cataracts. Like any surgery outcomes can never be guaranteed however and serious complications though rare are possible. Most complications are correctible with further surgery, laser or medical treatment but occasionally may result in permanent reduction in quality of vision or in the worst cases loss of sight.

Modern lenses can significantly reduce, and in many cases eliminate the need for glasses. Despite this some people will still benefit from glasses for some tasks. Visual side effects such as halos and glare are relatively common in the short term. In most but not all cases these symptoms will resolve over time.



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The above list of complications covers most possibilities but is not complete and if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to discuss these with Dr Hogden pre-operatively.