New Independence from Glasses and Contact Lenses

What is a cataract?

A cataract is a clouding of the transparent part inside your eye called the lens. The normally clear lens focuses light onto the retina, located at the back of the eye. When the lens becomes cloudy and opaque, light cannot pass to the retina. The result is blurry or cloudy vision.

What are the symptoms of cataracts?

In addition to fuzzy or hazy vision, you may notice frequent changes in your eyeglass prescription, decreased color perception, a sensitivity to bright light, halos around lights and poor night vision. Some or all of these symptoms may occur in varying degrees. Cataracts may develop quickly over a few months or slowly over a period of years. In many cases, both eyes will be affected, but not necessarily at the same time.

When should you consider surgery?

Surgical removal of the lens is the only effective treatment for cataracts. The natural lens, which helps to focus images, is removed from the eye during cataract surgery. A man-made lens is often substituted for the natural lens to achieve clear vision. When this lens is placed in the eye, it is called an intraocular lens or lens implant. The implant is a small, often foldable artificial lens, which is surgically placed inside the eye in essentially the same location as the natural lens.

Cataract surgery is rarely an emergency procedure; however, if the cataract causes glaucoma, immediate action may be warranted. Usually you will decide when cataract surgery is necessary: when your vision begins to interfere with your day-to-day life and doing the things you enjoy.

What types of IOLs are available at Eye Care Associates?

Standard Monofocal Intraocular Lens

A Monofocal IOL provides clear vision at a single fixed focus, usually distance vision. Patients with this type of IOL may still require glasses for the correction of their near vision, intermediate vision, or, in many instances, both.

Multifocal Intraocular Lens

A Multifocal IOL is designed to provide patients with a range of vision with increased freedom from reading glasses or bifocals. The lens uses a combination of optical systems designed to focus light on the retina without mechanical movement of the lens, thereby allowing the patient to see at various distances. (More about Multifocal IOLs continued on the back.)

AcrySof ReSTOR® IOL

The AcrySof ReSTOR® IOL was designed to provide quality near to distance vision by combining the strengths of apodized diffractive and refractive technologies. Apodization is the gradual tapering of the diffractive steps from the center to the outside edge of a lens to create a smooth transition of light between the distance, intermediate and near focal points. Diffraction involves the bending or spreading of light to multiple focal points as it passes through the lens. On the AcrySof ReSTOR® IOL, the center of the lens surface consists of an apodized diffractive optic. This means that the series of tiny steps in that center area work together to focus light for near through distance vision. The design allows for distance as well as vision for reading and computer work. However, it is possible that it will not completely eliminate your need for glasses for fine, detailed close work and your near vision focus will be best at approximately 10 inches.

Out of 100 Patients

99% achieved good distance vision without glasses (20/40 or better)
82% enjoyed acceptable intermediate vision at 20 inches without glasses
97% enjoyed good near vision without glasses (20/40 or better)

Multifocal Implant Surgery

Every individual is different and the overall health of your eyes may play a part in the side effects you may experience once the ReSTOR® lens is implanted. Some of these side effects are:

- Glare, blurred vision and halos around lights making it more difficult to see while driving at night, recognizing traffic signs or hard to see objects in the road or when reading in dim light conditions. These symptoms may go away but in some patients they can persist.
- The ReSTOR® lens should be implanted in both eyes to achieve your best possible vision. If you are planning not to have the cataract in your second eye removed or are planning to wait for your second surgery, the ReSTOR® lens may not be for you.
- The ReSTOR® lens has not been proven safe and effective for patients with glaucoma or diabetic eye disease. If you have a chronic eye condition, your surgeon will discuss with you the available options.

After your surgeries are completed, an adjustment period of up to six months may be required in order to achieve your best vision. If the thought of an adjustment period, glare or halos disturbs you, discuss this with your surgeon. In rare instances (less than 1 out of 200), patients have requested that their lens implant be removed.

Your Eyesight Is Precious

That's why the professionals at Eye Care Associates use the most advanced technology to help you see better, reduce your dependence on glasses or contacts, and in general, improve the quality of your life.

Check with your doctor to see if the ReSTOR® IOL is right for you.

For more information on the ReSTOR® IOL or any other service please contact our Patient Advisor at 330-747-2733 or 1-800-322-5665.