

Crystalens® Frequently Asked Questions

What Is the crystalens?

The crystalens® is the first and only intraocular lens replacement for cataracts that focuses like the eye's natural lens, allowing for continuous vision up-close, far-away and all distances in between. Unlike standard IOLs, the Crystalens can restore full functional vision and in most cases eliminate the need for glasses and contacts for everyday tasks, allowing patients to see well and to look their best. With crystalens, for the first time, cataract patients will have the opportunity to potentially experience the freedom of seeing well at all distances without glasses.

How Does It Work?

By using the eye's muscle to move the lens backwards and forwards naturally in response to the brain's desire to see at different distances, the crystalens enables patients to focus through a full range of vision including near, intermediate and far distances. Patients experience the same vision they had when they were younger, for most without the inconvenience of corrective lenses or eyeglasses.

What is an accommodating intraocular lens?

Crystalens is an accommodating lens, which means that it focuses like the eye's natural lens allowing for continuous vision up-close, far-away and all distances in between. The crystalens is intended to restore near, intermediate, and distance vision and in most cases eliminate the need for glasses and contacts for everyday tasks, allowing patients to see well and to look their best. With crystalens, for the first time, cataract patients will potentially have the opportunity to experience the freedom of seeing well at all distances without glasses.

What is the difference between the crystalens accommodating lens and a standard lens?

The crystalens accommodating intraocular lens allows for continuous vision up-close, far-away and at all distances in between, in most cases with patients experiencing the same vision they had when they were younger, without the inconvenience of corrective lenses.

In contrast, standard (single vision) lens implants provide vision at a fixed distance and do not have the ability to provide a full range of near, intermediate and far vision. Most people with single vision implants must wear glasses for near vision and may need to wear glasses for intermediate/arm's length vision as well.

Who are the best candidates for the crystalens IOL?

The Crystalens is ideally suited for men and women aged 50 years of age and older with cataracts who want to restore their near, intermediate and distance vision.

What is the cost for implanting the crystalens? Will insurance cover any of it?

Implanting the crystalens IOL is a high-precision procedure requiring the skill of a highly trained ophthalmic surgeon. The cost per eye will range between \$3,500 and \$5,500. Patients under 65 and not yet covered by Medicare should review their private health insurance policies to determine coverage and surgical alternatives prior to having cataract surgery as policies and coverage vary greatly from state-to-state. Generally speaking, private insurance will cover the cataract surgical procedure and anesthesia and will also allow a certain additional amount for the artificial lens implant. The insured is required to pay a deductible as well as any additional amount above the primary coverage. However, some patients may be responsible for the complete cost of the procedure and lens.

If I've had LASIK can I still be a candidate for crystalens?

Yes. People who have had prior corneal refractive surgery are acceptable candidates for crystalens implantation as long as their eye is in good health. Patients should consult their doctors.

Cataract Fact Sheet

What is a cataract?

A cataract is opacity of the natural crystalline lens in the eye. A cataract is not a new growth in the eye or lens. The term "cataract" implies that the lens is not clear any more causing vision to be blurry like looking through a misty glass or waterfall. In fact the word *cataract* is Latin for "waterfall".

Who gets cataracts?

According to the National Institutes of Health, 20.5 million people in the U.S. aged 40 and older suffer from cataracts. Cataract surgery is the most common surgery performed worldwide with more than 2.7 million procedures performed annually in the US.

What causes cataracts?

Cataract formation is a normal part of aging. While the exact cause is unknown, *possible* causes may include eye injuries and even some forms of radiation. Recent research findings indicate that the average age of 55 for onset of cataracts is decreasing (American Cataract Foundation), with 50 percent of people aged 65 and above having had or currently having cataracts.

How are cataracts treated?

In the early stages of cataracts, vision can be improved by using corrective lenses, magnifying glasses or better lighting. However, ultimately, surgery to remove the cataract is the only effective treatment.

What happens in cataract surgery?

In a cataract operation, the eye's natural lens is removed and a new lens is inserted to restore vision. This new lens is a permanent implant or artificial lens and is referred to as an intraocular lens or IOL.

IOL Types:

- **Standard Monofocal IOL:** Provides good distance and sometimes intermediate vision, but doesn't correct near vision. Usually requires corrective lenses or eyeglasses after surgery for reading and near vision tasks.
- **Multifocal IOL:** Designed to provide distance and near vision simultaneously, but does not restore good intermediate vision. Increased glare and halos reported at night.

Accommodating IOL:

Crystalens® is the first accommodating lens available in the U.S. and is designed to provide consumers with good distance, intermediate and near vision and is the only IOL that enables patients to see their best by providing a continuous range of vision, greatly reducing the need for corrective lenses or eyeglasses.

Is cataract surgery effective?

Cataract surgery is one of the most common and safest surgical procedures performed in the U.S. today with 2.7 million procedures performed annually. In about 90 percent of the cases (National Eye Institute) people who have cataract surgery experience better vision afterwards.

For more information on crystalens® or any of our other services please contact our Patient Advisor at 330-747-2733 or 800-322-5665.

Visit us on the web at www.eyecareassociates.com.

