

## Understand Cataract Treatment: Facts, Stats & FAQs



### The Facts About Cataracts

Although the symptoms of early-stage cataracts may be treated in a variety of ways, surgery is the only way to treat a cataract.

Cataract surgery is a routine procedure where the eye's clouded natural lens is removed and replaced with an artificial (intraocular) lens.

There is no perfect time to undergo cataract surgery. The right time to have the procedure depends upon you. Your doctor will help you decide when the benefits of cataract surgery outweigh the risks.

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### When is the best time to treat cataracts?

Many people believe cataracts have to be "ripe" (in a highly advanced stage) before they can be removed. This is no longer true. Today, cataract surgery is a routine procedure that can be performed as soon as you and your physician feel your vision interferes with the quality of your life.

#### What happens if cataracts go untreated?

Over time, the clouded area of your lens can become larger and thicker, causing your sight to become worse. This could take anywhere from a few months to many years. Eventually, your entire lens can cloud and cause blindness.

#### How do I know which lens implant is right for me?

No single lens works best for everyone, and only your ophthalmologist can determine the most appropriate option for you. Your overall eye health, the lifestyle you desire after cataract surgery, and financial considerations are all factors your doctor will discuss with you. However, multifocal lenses can offer less dependence on glasses after surgery.

To learn more about cataracts,  
treatment options, and life after  
cataracts visit

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## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Who performs cataract surgery?

Only ophthalmologists who have special training in eye surgery can perform cataract procedures.

### How successful is cataract surgery?

Cataract surgery has an overall success rate of 98 percent or greater. Continuous innovations in techniques and instruments make the procedure safer than ever.

### Can cataracts come back?

Once a cataract has been removed, it cannot return. However, over time, patients may complain that their vision has once again become cloudy. This condition is known as a secondary cataract. It can be treated by a simple laser procedure performed in your doctor's office.

## Cataract Statistics

More than 3 million cataract surgeries are performed in the U.S. each year. <sup>1</sup>

Cataracts surgery has an overall success rate of 98 percent or greater. <sup>2</sup>

About 95 percent of people who get standard intraocular lenses experience full restoration of their vision to its pre-cataract state. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> MedMarket Diligence, November 2006

<sup>2</sup> "The Aging Eye: A Special Health Report from Harvard Medical School," Ed. Fine, Laura C. M.D and Heier, Jeffrey S. M.D., copyright 2006, Harvard Health Publications, Boston, MA.

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