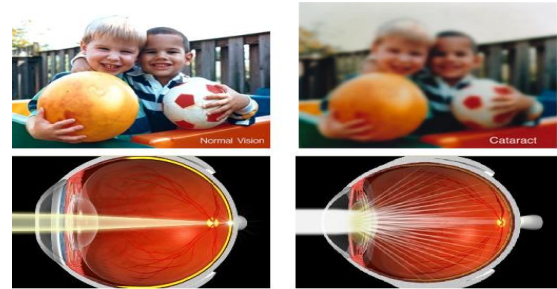


## Cataract Surgery Information

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### What is a cataract?

A cataract is a clouding of the natural lens in the eye that decreases vision. The lens of the eye is much like the lens of a camera that focuses light on the retina at the back of the eye.



### Who gets cataracts?

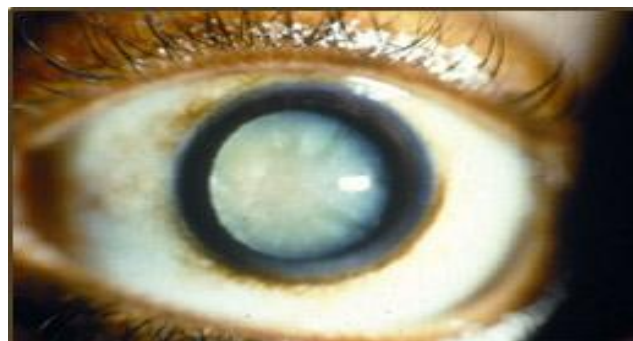
Everyone eventually gets cataracts. Most cataracts are related to aging and are very common in elderly people. Cataracts generally start around 60 years of age and progressively worsen over years. Cataracts are also related to sun-exposure, smoking and diabetes. A cataract can occur in one or both eyes.

### How do I know if I have a cataract?

- Cloudy or blurry vision.
- Colors seem faded.
- Glare, headlights, lamps, or sunlight may appear too bright. A halo may appear around lights.
- Poor night vision. Poor distance or near vision.
- Double vision or multiple images.
- Frequent prescription changes in your eyeglasses or contact lenses.

### How are cataracts diagnosed?

Using a slit lamp or a special device called an ophthalmoscope, your eye specialist or optometrist can examine your eye for signs of cataract.



## **How are cataracts treated?**

Cataracts require removal when they interfere with your vision and everyday functioning. The only way to remove cataracts is through a minor procedure at the hospital. Surgery involves removing the cloudy lens and replacing it with a clear artificial lens. This new intraocular lens remains clear forever and you will never develop another cataract in the operated eye again.

## **What types of intra-ocular lenses are used?**

With improvements in technology, there are many types of intra-ocular lenses that can improve vision. FVCL surgeons use the best “soft” foldable lenses that provide the best vision possible. These lenses can help improve day and night vision, treat astigmatism, and/or help with distance and near vision. It is important to realize that cataract surgery does not eliminate your use of glasses but can significantly decrease your dependence on them. You will be given more detailed information on the types of intraocular lenses recommended for your eyes.

## **Is cataract surgery effective?**

Cataract surgery is the most common surgery performed in the world. It is one of the safest and most effective surgeries. Approximately 95-98% of people have better vision after cataract surgery. Patients with specific eye diseases may have a guarded prognosis which your surgeon will discuss with you prior to your eye surgery.

## **What are the risks of cataract surgery?**

As with any surgery, cataract surgery poses risks, such as infection and bleeding. A serious complication may occur at a statistical rate of 1 in 1000 patients. A serious complication can result in loss of vision.

## **What happens before surgery?**

Specific tests need to be performed in the office to determine what type of intraocular lens will be ideally implanted into your eye. You will start your eye drops as instructed 2 days before the surgery.