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NorthamptonEye.com



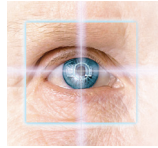
**Call us today to schedule
your cataract evaluation!**

Florence
40 Main St., Suite 106
Florence, MA 01062

Amherst
1 University Drive South
Amherst, MA 01002

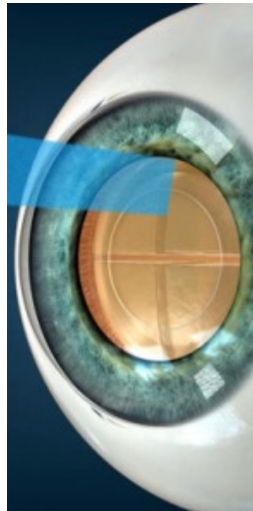
INTRAOCCULAR LENSES (IOLs)

Advances in surgical technology and intraocular lens implants allow our surgeons to provide a more pleasant and predictable procedure. Cataract surgery itself is considered medically necessary to restore vision and is thus covered by medical insurance, including Medicare. However, not all cataract surgery options are covered. Elective options, such as advanced pre-operative testing, astigmatism correction, premium lens implants, and laser cataract surgery will incur some out-of-pocket expense.



LASER CATARACT SURGERY

Laser-assisted cataract surgery allows surgeons to precisely treat astigmatism, reducing or eliminating the need for glasses to see well in the distance. The laser can also create "relaxing incisions" on the cornea and break the cataract into small pieces for easier removal, all with more precision than is possible with a manual blade.



Laser cataract surgery is ideal for patients wanting to reduce their need for glasses with astigmatism correction or premium lens implants, or for patients with dense cataracts.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Monofocal Lens Implant?

Monofocal lens implants have been the standard of care for decades. When your surgeon removes your cataract, a lens implant is placed inside the eye to restore the focusing power of your eye. A monofocal lens implant only has one focal point, usually set in the distance. This allows for improved distance vision, but glasses are usually still required to correct for astigmatism and for near vision.

What is Astigmatism?

Normally, eyes are round, like a baseball. Astigmatism is when the curvature of the eye is shaped more like a football. This can make your vision blurry. Glasses or contact lenses are usually necessary to correct astigmatism.

How Do You Correct Astigmatism?

To correct for low levels of astigmatism, your surgeon can create additional "relaxing incisions" on the cornea with a blade or a laser. To correct higher levels of astigmatism, a special "toric" lens implant is used to counteract the astigmatism. Treating your astigmatism can reduce your need for glasses.

What Is a Premium Lens Implant?

For patients who want to reduce their need for glasses altogether, including for near and intermediate distances, a premium intraocular lens is the solution. There are various types of premium lenses, including multifocal and extended depth of focus lenses. These lenses can also treat any astigmatism you may have. During your evaluation, your surgeon will help you choose a lens that best fits your lifestyle goals and budget.

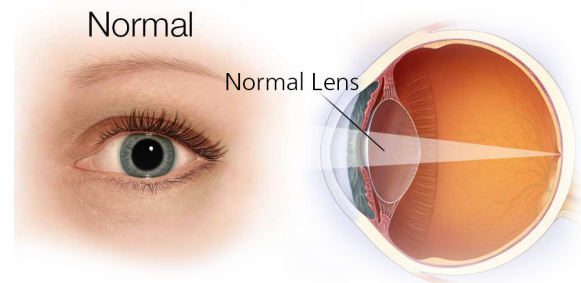
Cataract Surgery & Lens Implant Options



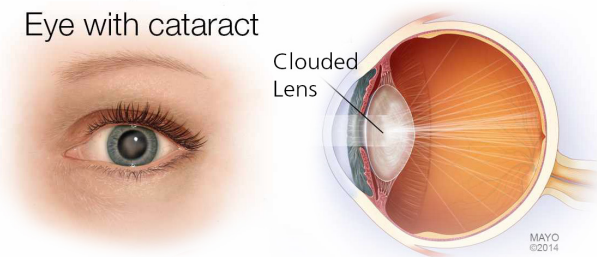
About Cataract Surgery

What is a cataract?

A cataract is a gradual, progressive clouding of the eye's natural lens, which causes glare, gradual loss of sight, and other hindrances to normal vision. Over 50% of people over the age of 60 have a cataract and the vast majority of people will develop some degree of cataracts during their lifetime.



A healthy, clear lens allows light to focus clearly on the retina, allowing a crisp image to be seen.



A cloudy lens scatters the light, causing a hazy image to be seen.

Symptoms of cataract may include:

- Blurred vision
- Difficulty while reading
- Glare and halos around light
- Difficulty driving at night
- Double vision (in a single eye)
- Yellowing of colors
- Blindness (in mature cataracts)
- Frequent changes in eyeglass prescriptions

Why do cataracts develop?

Cataracts develop because of a natural aging process in the eye's lens. Ultraviolet (UV) light exposure may play a role. Cataracts may also be caused by trauma, medical conditions, medications, or vitamin deficiencies.

When should I have my cataract removed?

The decision for surgery is based on visual difficulties that interfere with normal daily activities like driving or reading. We no longer recommend waiting for the cataracts to "mature" before considering surgery.

No needle, no stitch surgery

We use a no-shot, no-stitch, no-patch procedure that usually takes about 10 minutes to complete. The surgeons at Eye Physicians of Northampton are pioneers in using fewer drops for cataract surgery, resulting in less medication expense for you.

What can you expect immediately after surgery?

You may experience mild foreign body sensation or soreness that usually resolves by the next day. Vision is often improved within 24 hours of surgery. We recommend that you avoid bending, straining, or lifting heavy objects for 1 week.

Vision Correction Options



Basic

- Standard cataract surgery with a monofocal lens implant
- Glasses or contacts are typically needed for distance, intermediate, and near vision
- Covered by insurance



Enhanced

Reading Glasses Only

- Treats astigmatism during cataract surgery with toric implant or corneal incisions
- Provides excellent distance vision
- Reading glasses are still required
- Advanced testing and services are not covered by insurance



Premium

Visual Freedom with Premium Lens Implants

- Treats astigmatism during cataract surgery with toric implant or relaxing incisions.
- Treats presbyopia and allows for excellent distance and improved near vision
- Allows freedom from glasses for most activities.
- Reading glasses may need to be worn occasionally.
- Advanced testing and services are not covered by insurance