## Understanding Cataracts

A Simple Guide to Cataracts and Your Treatment Options



## So You've been Diagnosed with Cataracts...

You're not alone. More than 20 million Americans have cataracts in one or both eyes. It is a common condition that is often a natural result of aging. However, cataracts can also be caused by other health-related conditions, such as diabetes, trauma, and the use of some medications.

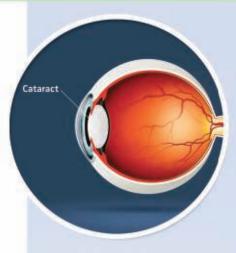
The treatment for cataracts is also very common. Cataract surgery has been performed successfully for thousands of years. Some of the first cataract surgeries were done in India over 4,000 years ago. Currently in the U.S., it is the most common surgery performed with more than 3 million performed annually.



### What is a cataract?

The eye functions much like a camera. The cornea and lens of the eye work together to focus light directly onto the retina. This is similar to the way the lens of a camera focuses an image onto the film.

The term cataract refers to a lens that has developed some level of cloudiness. The level of cloudiness can vary, as can the exact progression of a cataract. The two most common symptoms of cataracts are glare with night vision and the feeling that things aren't as clear as they should be.



#### **Fast Facts**

- Cataract surgery is the most common surgery in the United States.
- Cataracts are frequently a natural result of aging.
- Surgery is often completed within 15 minutes.

#### **Cataract Treatment**

It is normal to be apprehensive about cataract surgery, but we want you to relax and understand we are focused to make the procedure as easy as possible. The cataract treatment is generally painless. An anesthesia provider administers medicine through either a pill form or an IV that helps the patient achieve a state of relaxation and well-being. Cataract surgery is quick, and is typically completed in 15 minutes.

The cataract procedure involves replacing the original, cloudy lens with a new, clear artificial one, referred to as an intraocular lens. The surgeon begins by making a small incision on the cornea. The cloudy lens is fragmented into very tiny pieces using ultrasound waves, and removed through the small incision. The new intraocular lens is then inserted.

Using the latest technological advances, the surgeons at the Cleveland Eye Clinic can perform cataract surgery without stitches and with minimal discomfort. With today's technology, typically there are no shots, no pain, and no patches during healing.

# **Options** at Cleveland Eye Clinic

Today, patients have more treatment choices than ever before. Some of the newer advancements in cataract surgery can help patients with their overall eyesight issues such as nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism, and presbyopia (the loss of the ability to change focus from distance vision to reading vision.) Cataract patients now have the opportunity to fundamentally correct their eyes and their vision, often improving their quality of vision to better than ever before. These newer treatment options may provide a greater overall quality of vision and better quality of life.

The Cleveland Eye Clinic offers four treatment options for the cataract patient: Basic Cataract Procedure, The Distance Vision Package, The Personalized Vision (Light Adjustable Lens) Package, and the Multifocal Vision Package. Your doctor will discuss these options with you and make a recommendation based on your particular needs and preferences.

Quality of Vision Without Glasses			
	Distance	Near	
Basic		*****	
Distance Vision	****	*****	
Personalized Vision (Light Adjustable Lens) Package	****	*****	
Multifocal	****	****	

<sup>\*</sup>Monovision surgery is only available with the Personalized Vision (Light Adjustable Lens) Package. Monovision is a strategy where one eye is corrected for great distance vision and the other is corrected for great reading vision.

#### **Basic Cataract Procedure**

The **Basic Cataract Procedure** will give improved vision to patients with visually significant cataracts. With this procedure, the patient can expect improved vision, but in most cases the patient will still require prescription eyeglasses for the best distance and near vision. As with all of our packages, the patient is responsible for insurance deductibles, co-insurance and/or copays that aren't covered by Medicare or insurance.

## **Distance Vision Package**

The **Distance Vision Package** will offer a patient high quality distance vision in both eyes. With the **Distance Vision Package**, most patients will only need reading glasses after the procedure. The Cleveland Eye Clinic technicians and doctors will perform additional preoperative testing and measurements with the goal of achieving independence from prescription glasses after surgery. A patient who chooses the **Distance Vision Cataract Package** will be responsible for any deductible, co-insurance and/or copays not covered by Medicare or insurance, and an additional fee that covers additional measurements and more sophisticated technology to improve your results. The surgeon has a variety of technology at his/her fingertips with a **Distance Vision Package**.

The **Distance Vision Package** includes the correction of astigmatism. Astigmatism correction is managed with a special custom toric lens, or a corneal reshaping incision. The goal of the astigmatism correction is to help reduce or eliminate your distance prescription glasses.

### Personalized Vision (Light Adjustable Lens) Package

The **Personalized Vision (Light Adjustable Lens) Package** provides patients the largest range of vision with the potential to achieve the greatest independence from glasses and contact lenses. The Light Adjustable Lens will be utilized to help accomplish these goals. The **Personalized Vision (Light Adjustable Lens) Package** is utilized to correct your glasses prescription through adjusting the implanted lens. With this package, patients are responsible for copays, deductibles, and an additional fee that covers the additional measurements and more sophisticated technology to improve results. The surgeon will choose the technology that best fits the patient's goals.

The Cleveland Eye Clinic surgeons were the first in the USA to perform the Light Adjustable Lens (LAL) Procedure commercially. The LAL is the most accurate lens worldwide and allows the surgeon to make the results of cataract surgery even more predictable. After implantation of the Light Adjustable Lens and allowing the eye to heal, the surgeon can then customize the lens power by directing a low intensity beam of UV light onto the lens with an in-office procedure. This allows the surgeon to precisely adjust the power to provide the exact vision which the patient desires. Patients who choose the LAL will need to protect their eyes from UV light for about 4-6 weeks post op with special glasses which are provided.

The Light Adjustable Lens can be used to maximize a patient's monovision outcome. Monovision is a vision strategy where one eye is corrected for maximum distance vision, and the other eye is corrected for the patient's reading vision. With monovision, most patients can perform their daytime tasks glasses free.

The use of the LAL will give the surgeon the opportunity to fine tune the patient's reading and distance vision after the surgery is complete. The Personalized Option also corrects a patient's astigmatism.

### **Multifocal Vision Package**

A **Multifocal Vision Package** will also offer a patient the greatest opportunity for independence from both prescription glasses and reading glasses. Multifocal lens implants are designed to correct a patient's distance vision prescription, as well as the age related loss of reading vision also known as presbyopia. Many patients who choose a multifocal intraocular lens find they can be glasses free or may only need reading glasses occasionally for reading small print after cataract surgery. The multifocal implant will also correct a patient's astigmatism. The multifocal lens will have more glare and halos than the other available lenses.

A patient who chooses the **Multifocal Vision Package** will be responsible for any deductible, co-insurance and/or copays not covered by Medicare or insurance, and an additional fee per eye that covers additional measurements and more sophisticated technology to improve your results.

## ORA with VerifEye Technology

The Cleveland Eye Clinic doctors are worldwide leaders in the development and operating room use of ORA Technology. The Cleveland Eye Clinic surgeons have given many lectures and educated other doctors about this technology. ORA is a big advancement in eye lens surgery. It assists the surgeons at the time of surgery by helping them to select the best choice for intraocular lens power and astigmatism correction. ORA uses Wavefront technology to analyze many possible imperfections of the way light passes through the eye to the retina. ORA can tell if the eye is in focus at the time of surgery. ORA helps guide the surgeon to focus the eye through customized lens placement and adjustment. The Cleveland Eye Clinic doctors admit that it adds a couple of minutes of time to the surgical procedure, but have no doubt that it is well worth the extra time. The ORA technology is included with the Distance Vision Package, Personalized Vision (Light Adjustable Lens) Package, and the Multifocal Vision Package.

# When you have cataract surgery with a Cleveland Eye Clinic Surgeon at Brecksville Surgery Center...

- You will have the option of needleless cataract surgery. The surgeons offer an alternative to I.V. sedation for those patients who don't like the idea of having a needle in their arm. If you would prefer, you can take a tablet called a "melt" that you place under your tongue, and as it dissolves, you will be sedated into relaxation.
- You will have the opportunity to some of the newest vision correction technology. The doctors have nine lasers in the surgery center that they designed for their patients' comfort and convenience. The doctors were the first to offer their patients all laser LASIK, laser assisted refractive cataract surgery, and ORA technology with VerifEye. The Cleveland Eye Clinic surgeons participate in FDA trials so that they can offer technologies to their patients that would not otherwise be available. Some of the surgical technologies mentioned here are available at the Brecksville Surgery Center.

The surgeons do offer cataract surgery at other surgery centers for patients' convenience. The technology available at those surgery centers may vary.

 You will be in the hands of some of the most experienced cataract surgeons in Ohio.
 The Cleveland Eye Clinic surgeons perform more than 4,000 cataract procedures per year.

#### Our Surgeons are available in the following surgical centers

#### **Brecksville Surgery Center**

7001 South Edgerton Road Suite A Brecksville, Ohio 44141 University Hospitals Elyria Medical Center 630 River St. Elyria, Ohio 44035

#### Premium Surgery Center, Elyria

5319 Hoag Drive Elyria, Ohio 44035 Canfield Surgery Center 4147 Westford Drive Canfield, Ohio 44406

#### Parkway Surgery Center

(part of the Toledo Hospital/Promedica System) 2120 Central Ave. Toledo, Ohio 43606

Your surgical counselor can tell you which surgery centers are available to you based on your surgeon.

#### **Drop combination**

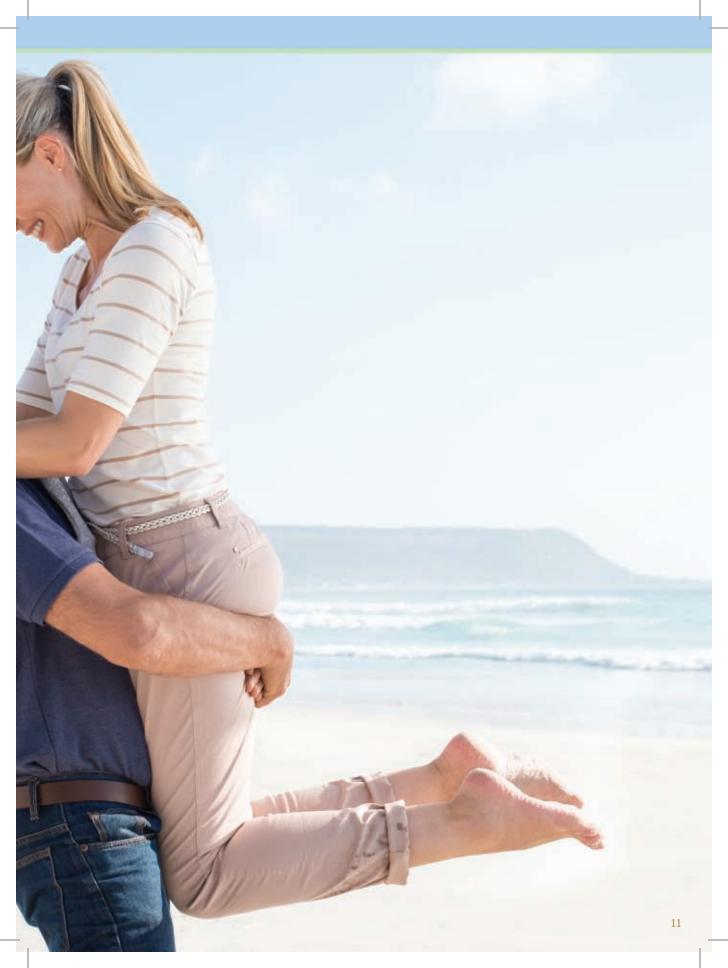
The Cleveland Eye Clinic surgeons want their patients to have more convenience and pay less for the drops they need after surgery. Cleveland Eye Clinic surgeons offer their own drop combination that can be purchased for a small fee. We are proud to provide access to this medication at approximately onethird the cost of traditional drops used during the post-operative period. Furthermore these drops contain the three common medicines in one convenient bottle thus reducing the amount of bottles and eye drop applications required. With our combination formula most patients only require one eye drop per day following cataract surgery. These customized drops are included in the cost of surgery for all options except the Basic Cataract Package.

# Laser Treatments AFTER a Lens Procedure

A "YAG" laser procedure may be recommended sometime in the future following a cataract procedure.

In some instances, cloudy cells form in the center of the eye following cataract treatment, causing blurred, hazy vision, or glare problems when driving at night. This is known as "posterior capsular haze" and occurs in as many as 40% of cataract patients performed worldwide. YAG Laser Posterior Capsulotomy is a quick and painless laser treatment that can be used to relieve the patient of this condition. Most private insurances and Medicare cover this type of treatment.

There are other instances where procedures such as LASIK will be considered to fine tune the results of a cataract procedure for patients looking to reduce the dependence on glasses. For patients that have chosen basic cataract surgery there will be an out-of-pocket cost to undergo LASIK since it is not covered by insurance. A Cleveland Eye Clinic professional can review the costs and recommend timeline of this treatment option with you.



## **CLEVELAND EYE CLINIC DOCTORS — EXPERTS**

For more than 75 years, the Cleveland Eye Clinic has provided "World Class Excellence in Eyecare" to the Northeast Ohio region. Today, we bring a unique combination of advanced technology, skilled and experienced doctors, and unparalleled customer service to each and every patient. That's why so many local and regional optometrists refer their patients to us.

Everyone at Cleveland Eye Clinic is focused on you and your eyecare needs. From the moment you contact us, we will work hard to ensure that you are comfortable, that your questions are answered, and that your needs are met.

Cataract Surgery Laser Eye Surgery Diabetic Eye Care Treatment of Glaucoma Laser Surgery for Floaters

Macular Degeneration Dry Eye Therapy



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www.ClevelandEyeClinic.com