

Cataract Surgery

For some time now, your eyesight has been cloudy because of a cataract. But with cataract surgery, you will soon be seeing much better!

A cataract is when the lens of the eye becomes cloudy.

The lens is the part of your eye that helps to focus light on your retina. When the lens becomes cloudy, it makes your vision cloudy as well. Cataract surgery is the only way to improve your eyesight.

During this procedure, the cloudy lens is removed and replaced with an artificial lens.

This new lens is called an intraocular lens, or IOL.

For the surgery, you will be awake. But your eye is first numbed, either with eye drops or an injection. You may also be given medicine to help you relax.

Your eye surgeon props open your eyes with an eyelid holder. This tool makes sure you don't blink during the surgery.

Looking through a special microscope, your eye surgeon makes a tiny cut on the side of your cornea. The cornea is the clear covering on the front of your eye.

Through this cut, your eye surgeon may remove the cloudy lens in one piece. Or they may first break it up with a special tool that emits ultrasound waves. The pieces are then suctioned out.

After your eye surgeon removes the cloudy lens, they insert your new lens, letting it unfold in place.

Your eye surgeon may then use stitches to close the cut in your cornea. Or it may be left to heal on its own.

After the surgery, you may be given an eye shield to wear. It helps protect your eye while it heals.

For a few days, your eye may itch or feel sore. But your vision will get better in the next couple weeks to months.

If you have any questions or concerns, talk with your eye care provider. They will help you know what to expect.