

Staffordshire Eye Clinic

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Phacoemulsification (Small incision cataract surgery)

The benefits. The aim is to improve both the quality of your vision and the view of the back of the eye for your doctors. Your requirement for glasses will change. You will require reading glasses and may require distance glasses for best vision.

Serious or frequently occurring risks during the operation

It is possible for a cataract operation to leave you worse off than you are now. One person in every 1000 will go blind in that eye as a direct result of the operation. One in 10,000 will lose the eye. There is virtually no risk to the other eye. Details follow:-

Bruising of eye or eyelids (quite common)

Posterior capsule rupture – a split in the thin back wall of the cataract which can allow communication between front and back compartments of the eye (1:50)

Dropped nucleus - part or all of the cataract falls through a posterior capsule rupture into the back part of the eye needing another operation to remove it (1:1000)

Suprachoroidal haemorrhage - bleeding inside the eye which may require the operation to be completed on another day (1:1000)

Allergy - to drops given after the operation, causing an itchy swollen eye until the drops are stopped or changed (1:200)

Raised eye pressure which may require temporary treatment (1:50)

Cystoid macular oedema - inflammatory fluid in the centre of the retina. In a mild form it is quite common and needs no treatment. It can be severe and can require prolonged treatment (1:250)

Posterior capsular opacification - clouding of the membrane behind the implant causing blurred vision (1:20 with our implants). This is easily treated as an outpatient laser procedure.

Corneal decompensation – permanent clouding of the window of the eye (1:1000)

Refractive surprise - unexpectedly large or different glasses requirement (1:500)

Dislocation of the implant – the lens implant moves out of position (1:2000)

Detached retina - peeling off of the seeing layer within the eye (1:1000)

Endophthalmitis - severe infection inside the eye (1:1000)

Complications can be treated effectively in most cases. If you decide against a cataract operation, your vision will usually slowly worsen but cataract surgery could be considered again at a later date.