

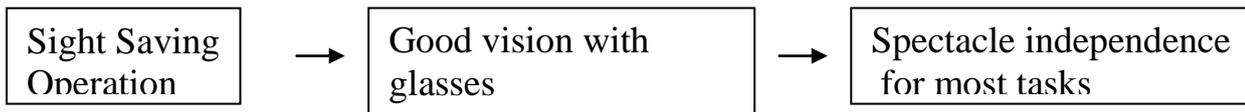
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Lens Implants Options for Cataract Surgery

Advancing surgery has raised the aim of the best surgeons and the best informed patients. Thirty years ago cataract surgery was seen as a sight saving procedure. More recently there was focus on the best achieved vision in glasses. Advances in surgical techniques and lens implants now mean that we can aim to minimise spectacle dependence for most tasks in many patients. This leaflet describes the options with modern lens implants



I offer small incision cataract surgery with multifocal, toric and aspheric lens implants to suit your individual needs and requirements.

When a cataract is removed, an artificial lens is placed inside the eye to take the place of the human lens. Many patients find they still need to wear glasses for some activities, however advances in lens technology now allow patients to be less dependent on glasses after surgery.

Aspheric Lenses

Aspheric lenses are most commonly used in my practice. This lens implant has been designed to reduce spherical aberration. Studies have shown improved night vision and contrast sensitivity when compared to standard spherical lens implants. My usual lens implant is the [Acrysof IQ](#) (Alcon) which is introduced through a 2.8mm incision, is aspheric and provides both ultraviolet and blue light protection. There is extensive worldwide safety experience with 50 million lens implants using the same lens material.

Spherical Lenses

In some situations I will choose a spherical lens which can have important advantages for depth of focus and comfort where there is a risk of lens decentration.

Toric Lenses (Astigmatism)

Toric lenses will correct or reduce astigmatism. Astigmatism is due to an irregularity of the corneal curvature resulting in blurred vision at all distances. It is corrected by spectacles or contact lenses with a cylindrical (toric) lens. Toric lens implants are used for patients with significant astigmatism, who have required glasses for both distance and near vision prior to cataract surgery. Toric lens implants can achieve good distance vision without the need for glasses. Customised wound incisions help where there are lesser degrees of astigmatism.

Multifocal and Accommodative Lenses

Multifocal lenses are suitable for patients who wish to reduce spectacle dependence after cataract surgery. The lens used depends on the patient's visual needs and can give distance, intermediate and near vision without glasses. In a published study 7% of patients required subsequent lens exchange surgery although this is not so frequently needed where case selection is carefully considered¹. It is important to tailor the type of multifocal lens to the patient's particular needs.

¹ Woodward MA et al. Dissatisfaction after multifocal intraocular lens implantation. J Cataract Refract Surg 2009;35:992-997