

Paul V. Minotty, M.D.

Board Certified

Custom Cataract Surgery

Laser Cataract Surgery

Near Vision Lenses

General Ophthalmology

Glaucoma

David J. O'Brien, M.D.

Board Certified

Fellowship Trained

Refractive Surgeon

General Ophthalmology

Glaucoma

Eyelid Surgery

Stephen M. Tate, M.D.

Board Certified

Custom Cataract Surgery

Anterior Segment Surgery

General Ophthalmology

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Robert M. Reinauer, M.D.

Board Certified

Fellowship Trained

Surgical/Medical Treatment

of the Retina & Vitreous

Macular Degeneration

Diabetic Eye Care

Roger J. Meyer, M.D.

Honorary Staff

Name _____ Date of birth _____

In addition to gaining clearer vision after cataract surgery, patients today have more of a choice in their visual outcome. This is achieved by replacing the clouded natural lens of the eye with a new clear lens (IOL) that has prescription power specifically measured for the individual patient. Some lenses best correct at distance, some at near, some at both distance and near, and some for astigmatism. For these reasons, no one lens is right for every patient. Also, some lenses are an additional cost for the patient. Please help us to better understand your visual goals by answering the questions below.

What is your occupation (present or former) and favorite hobbies?

Have you ever worn contacts to correct one eye for distance and one eye for near? If yes, was it successful for you?

Do you feel that dry conditions affect your vision?

How do you feel about wearing glasses? (please check all that apply)

I don't mind wearing glasses all day.

I don't mind wearing glasses for reading /close work.

I don't mind wearing glasses for TV/driving distances.

I would like to greatly reduce dependence on glasses for both reading and far distance, even if there is an increased incidence of glare/halos and decreased contrast in certain lighting conditions.

Would you be willing to pay an out-of-pocket expense for a lens that compensates for astigmatism, if needed?

Would you be willing to pay an out-of-pocket expense for a lens that decreases some of your dependence on glasses for near/reading and far distances, if you are a candidate?

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Frequently Asked Questions About Cataracts

What is a cataract? A cataract is a clouding of the natural lens of the eye (which is located behind the pupil and iris).

What causes a cataract? Though cataracts can occur at any age, most cataracts develop when aging or trauma cause proteins within the lens to break down and become cloudy or opaque. Less often, cataracts develop before birth, by use of corticosteroids, or by an inherited disorder. Prolonged exposure to sunlight and smoking may contribute to cataracts.

Do cataracts ever go away on their own? No, the only treatment is surgery.

Can cataracts be prevented? Though there is no certain prevention known, there are possible steps that a person could take in attempts to help prevent them. Wearing protective eyewear, when active, can aid against trauma. Wearing 100% UV protective sunglasses can aid against sun exposure. Avoiding smoking can aid in avoiding cellular oxidization.

How fast do cataracts grow? There is a great variability. Some take years to change, while others change in a few months.

Can cataracts develop in only one eye? Yes.

How long does cataract surgery take? Generally 10-15 minutes.

Is anesthesia used for cataract surgery? Patients generally receive some sedation and the eye is numbed with eye drops. No needles are used and general anesthesia is not necessary.

Are both eyes operated on the same day? No. The second eye is done when the first eye is safely out of the post-operative period.

How long is the recovery time? This varies from a few weeks to longer in certain individuals. Normal activity generally resumes very shortly after surgery.

Do cataracts come back after surgery? No, and the new lens stays clear. There is a normal clear membrane which is behind the lens called the posterior capsule. In some patients, the membrane may become cloudy in time. In this case, a simple laser procedure treats the cloudy membrane.

Will my glasses be changed after surgery? Generally, yes.