

Cataracts and Intraocular Lenses (IOLs)

Alcon

What is a cataract?

A cataract is a clouding of the natural lens of your eye that causes your vision to appear hazy. Cataracts occur when the lens in the eye becomes cloudy from natural proteins that build up over time. As the condition progresses, the clouded lens allows less light to pass through the eye and vision becomes blurred.

Causes of cataracts

- Cataracts form gradually and happen to almost everyone as a result of normal aging.
- Radiation exposure, long-term steroid use, diabetes, smoking, and eye trauma can accelerate the development of cataracts.¹ Additionally, ultraviolet light from the sun may contribute to the development of cataracts.²
- While rare, cataracts can also be congenital, meaning they're present at birth.³

Signs and symptoms

- In early stages, a cataract may not cause any vision problems. As a result, some people may not be aware they have a cataract at first.
- Cataracts tend not to cause vision problems until after the age of 60.⁴
- Symptoms of cataracts include:²
 - Clouded, blurred, or dim vision
 - Reduced quality of night vision
 - Light sensitivity
 - Difficulty reading
 - Fading of colors
 - Double vision in a single eye
- As they develop and worsen, cataracts may also interfere with the ability to perform basic activities like driving and reading.

Cataract treatment and restoring vision with IOLs

4 M

Each year, an estimated 4 million cataract surgeries are performed in the U.S.^{5,6}



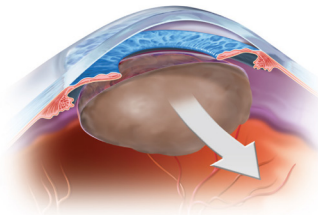
Vision loss due to cataracts can be restored by surgically removing the affected lens and replacing it with an IOL.



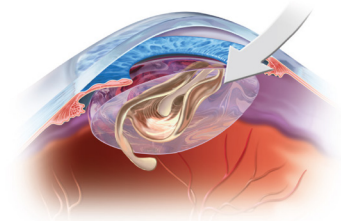
Cataract surgery is one of the safest and most-effective surgeries offered in the U.S., resulting in improved vision in around 90 percent of cases.² Most people experience little to no discomfort during the process and say that cataract surgery is easier than they expected.^{7,8}

Cataracts and Intraocular Lenses (IOLs)

An IOL is an artificial lens that is implanted during surgery to replace your cataract lens. You can choose from many different types of IOLs—some are designed to provide only distance vision, while trifocal lenses deliver vision at every distance.⁹ After a surgeon removes your cataract-clouded lens, he or she will implant the IOL that you chose before your procedure.



Cataract Removal



IOL Implantation

IOLs generally fall into the following categories:

Monofocal IOLs

replace the natural lens and don't provide any additional vision correction. This means people wearing glasses before surgery will need to wear them after surgery. They have one point of focus, either in the distance or close up.

Multifocal IOLs

replace the natural lens and provide additional vision correction at multiple focal points to help with refractive problems such as presbyopia. They provide two or more points of focus and are designed to reduce the dependence on reading glasses.

Trifocal IOLs

are the newest kind of IOL available in the U.S., and are specifically engineered to provide vision at every distance, from near through far. As a result, people with trifocal IOLs rarely need to wear eye glasses following surgery.

Toric IOLs

are designed to correct astigmatism, a common condition that occurs when the cornea is irregularly shaped, like a football instead of a baseball, causing vision to appear blurry.

U.S. Patient Prevalence



Cataracts are the leading cause of vision loss in the U.S.¹⁰

AGE

65

Cataracts become more and more common after the age of 65.¹¹

20.5 M

As of 2015, it's estimated that 20.5 million Americans over the age of 40 have a cataract in at least one eye. That's expected to reach 30.1 million by 2020.⁴

1 National Institutes of Health (NIH), U.S. National Library of Medicine, Medline Plus, Congenital cataract. <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001615.htm> [Accessed July 19, 2019]

2 National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Eye Institute (NEI), Facts About Cataracts. http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/cataract/cataract_facts.asp [Accessed July 19, 2019]

3 Cataracts, Mayo Clinic. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/cataracts/symptoms-causes/syc-20353790>. Updated June 23, 2018. [Accessed April 16, 2019]

4 National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Eye Institute (NEI), Facts About Cataracts. http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/cataract/cataract_facts.asp [Accessed July 19, 2019]

5 AcrySof® IQ PanOptix® Directions For Use.

6 Market Scope 2017 Ophthalmic Surgical Instrument Report

7 Thompson V. Does cataract surgery hurt? All About Vision. <https://www.allaboutvision.com/conditions/faq-cataract-surgeryhurt.htm>. Updated August 2017. [Accessed March 19, 2019]

8 Howard B. The truth about cataracts and cataract surgery, AARP. <https://www.aarp.org/health/conditions-treatments/info-08-2013/truth-about-cataract-surgery.html> [Accessed April 25, 2019]

9 Alcon data on file, 2018.

10 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Vision Health Initiative. <https://www.cdc.gov/visionhealth/basics/ced/index.html> [Accessed July 19, 2019]

11 United States Census Bureau, Older People Projected to Outnumber Children for First Time in U.S. History. <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2018/cb18-41-population-projections.html> [Accessed July 21, 2019]