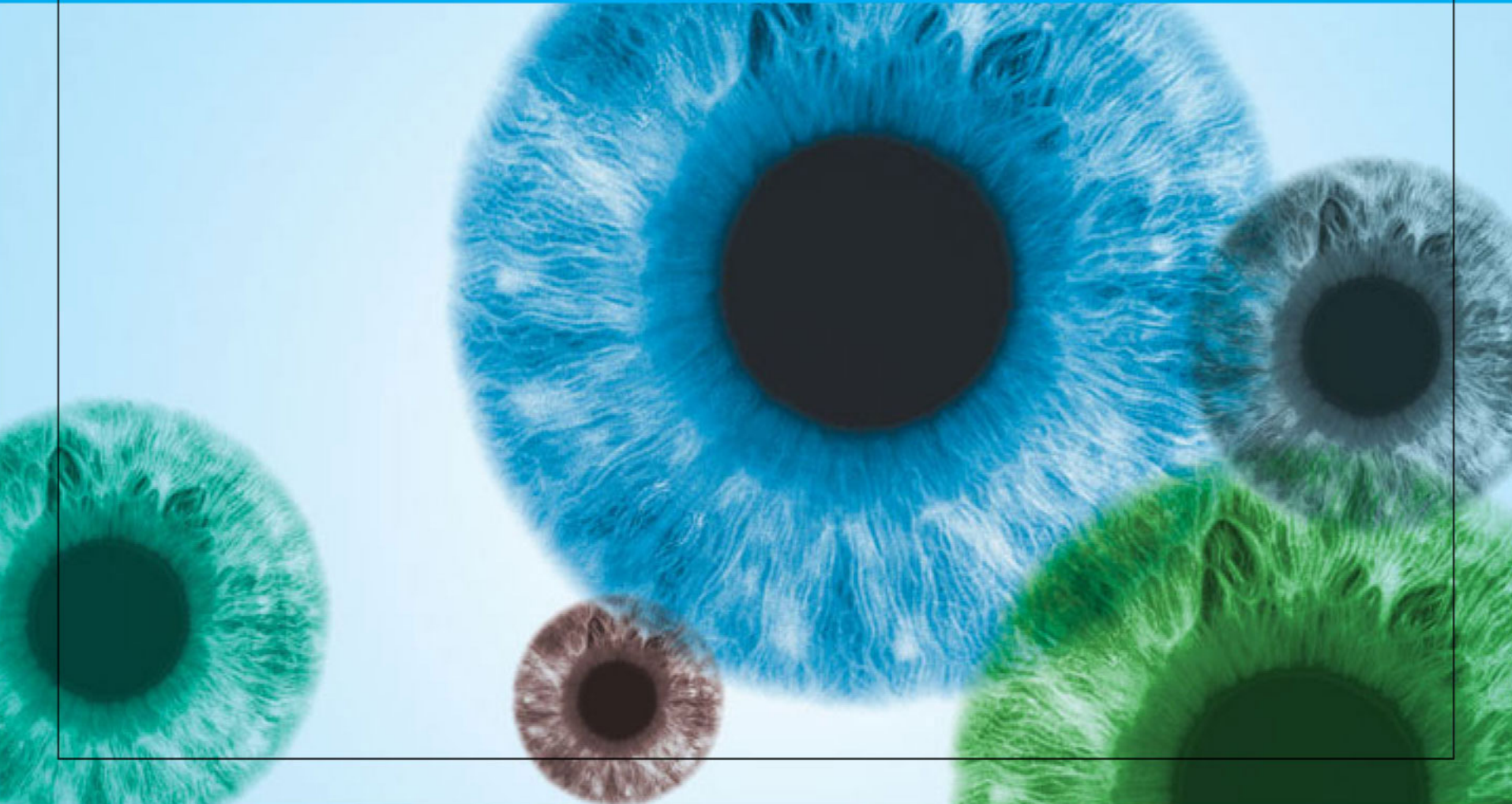


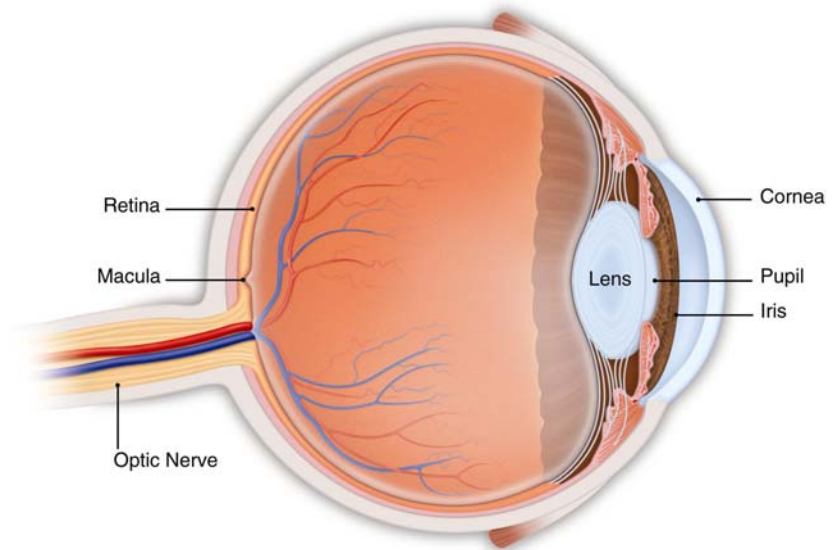
Cataract Surgery



This presentation is intended for informational purposes only. It is not intended to diagnose or treat any conditions. Consult your medical practitioner for individual advice.

The healthy eye

- Light rays enter the eye through the cornea, pupil and lens.
- These light rays are focused directly onto the *retina*, the light-sensitive tissue lining the back of the eye.
- The retina converts light rays into impulses; sent through the optic nerve to your brain, where they are recognized as images.



What is a cataract?



Healthy lens

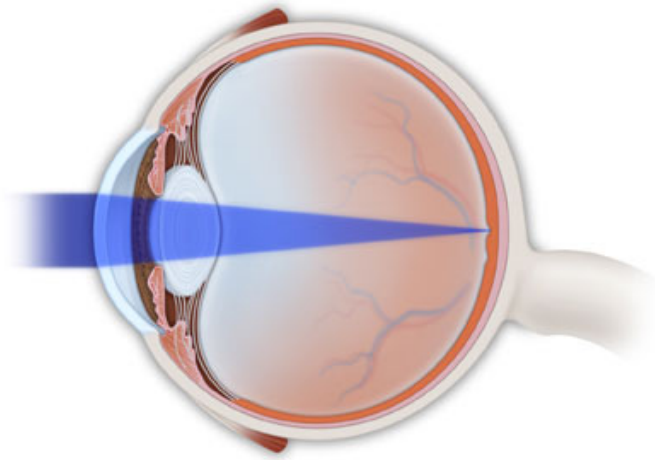


Lens with a cataract

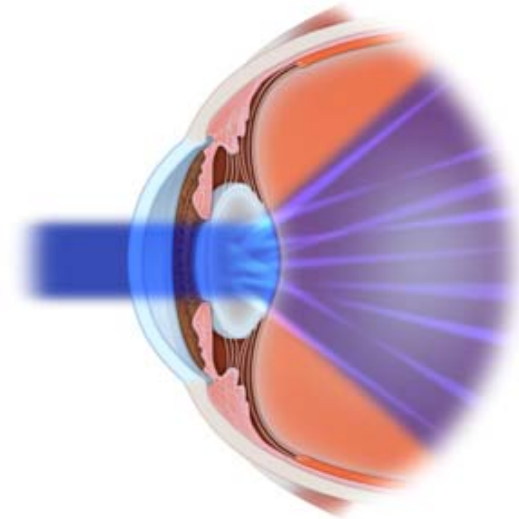
- **Clouding of the normally clear lens of the eye.**

- **Can be compared to a window that is frosted or yellowed.**

What is a cataract?



- A clear lens refracts light onto the retina and fine-tunes our focusing ability.



- A cloudy lens prevents light from focusing sharply on the retina.

A cataract is not:

- A film over the eye.
- Caused by overusing the eyes.
- Spread from one eye to the other.
- A cause of irreversible blindness.

Symptoms of cataracts

- Painless blurring of vision.
- Glare or light sensitivity.
- Poor night vision and/or difficulty driving at night.
- Double vision in one eye.
- Needing brighter light to read.
- Fading or yellowing of colors.



Yellowing of colors

What causes cataracts?

- **Aging of the eye (most common).**
- **Family history.**
- **Medical problems, such as diabetes.**
- **Injury to the eye.**
- **Medications, especially steroids.**
- **Long-term, unprotected exposure to sunlight.**
- **Previous eye surgery.**

How quickly does a cataract develop?

- **Most age-related cataracts progress gradually over a period of years.**
- **Non-age-related cataracts, especially in younger people and people with diabetes, may progress rapidly over a short time.**
- **Cataract development varies among individuals, and may even be different between the two eyes.**
- **Protection from excessive sunlight may help slow the progression of cataracts (UV-protective sunglasses or regular eyeglasses).**



How is a cataract treated?

- **Surgery is only way to remove cataracts.**
- **If symptoms of cataract are not affecting your normal activities, surgery may not be needed.**
- **Sometimes a simple change in your eyeglass prescription can help delay the need for surgery.**

When should cataract surgery be performed?

- **When cataracts cause enough vision loss to interfere with your daily activities:**
 - Performing your job
 - Driving safely
 - Reading and watching TV in comfort
 - Taking medication
- **You and your ophthalmologist (Eye M.D.) should decide together when surgery is appropriate.**



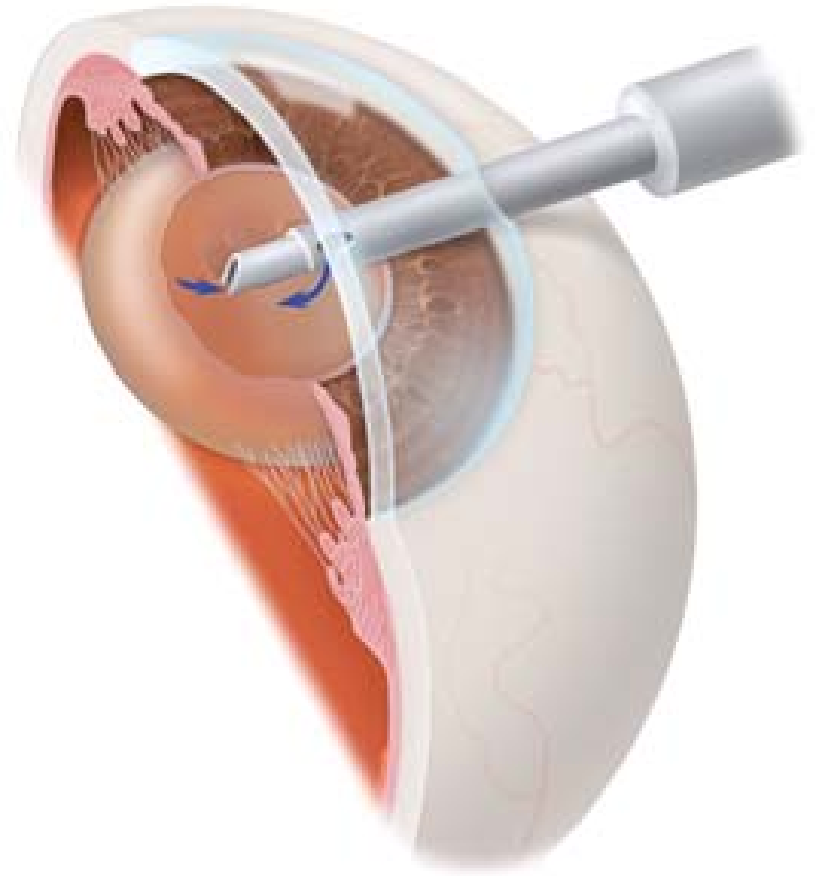
How is cataract surgery performed?

- **Outpatient procedure (usually).**
- **Local or topical anesthesia.**



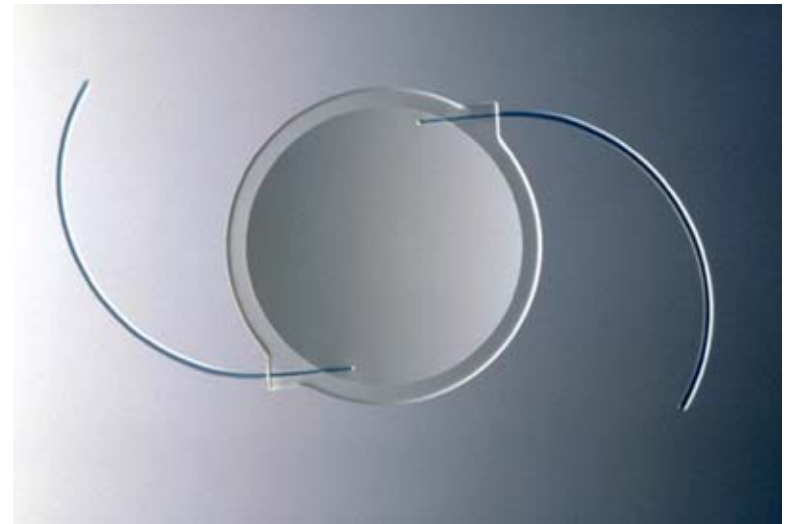
How is cataract surgery performed?

- A small incision is made close to the edge of the cornea.
- A tiny, high-frequency ultrasound instrument is inserted that breaks up center of the lens.
- Broken-up cloudy lens material is removed through the incision.



How is cataract surgery performed?

- **Intraocular lens (IOL) implant is inserted into your eye to replace the cloudy lens.**
- **IOL is customized for your eye; restores focusing power.**



How is cataract surgery performed?

- IOL usually placed *behind* the iris (posterior chamber lens).
- Sometimes placed *in front* of iris (anterior chamber lens).



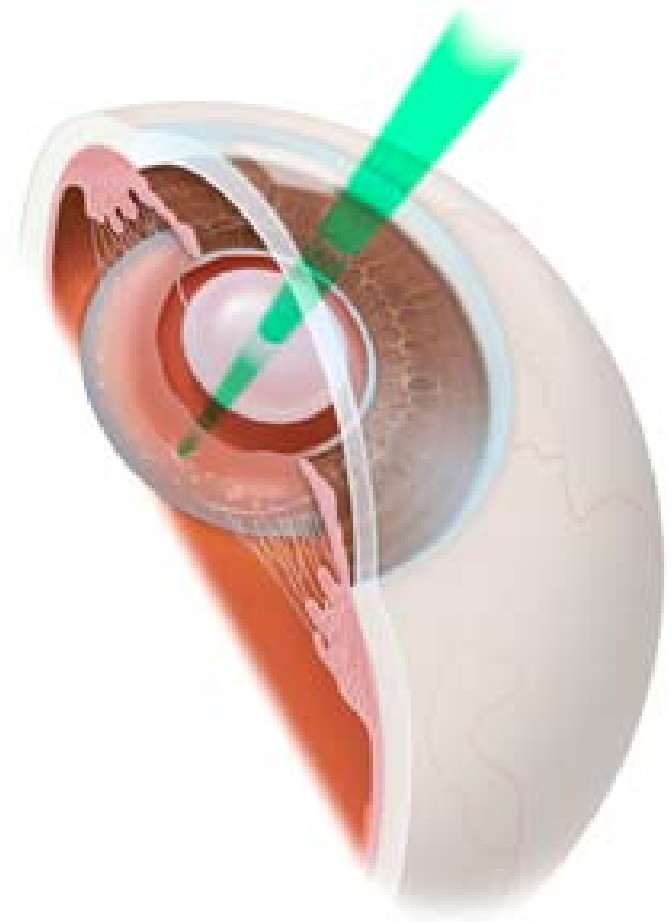
IOL in eye

What can I expect from cataract surgery?

- **Most cataract surgical procedures are performed without complications and result in immediate improvement in vision.**
- **You will apply eye drops for several weeks following surgery to reduce the possibility of infection and/or inflammation in the eye.**
- **You may need an eyeglass prescription to obtain your clearest vision following surgery.**

Posterior capsulotomy

- In a small number of cases, the natural capsule supporting IOL can become cloudy after cataract surgery.
- **Posterior Capsulotomy:** laser surgery to open cloudy capsule and restore clear vision.



Posterior Capsulotomy

Cataract surgery to restore clear vision

- **More than 1.4 million people in the U.S. have cataract surgery each year.**
- **More than 95% of cataract surgeries are performed with no complications and improved vision.**
- **You and your ophthalmologist should decide together when cataract surgery is appropriate for you.**

