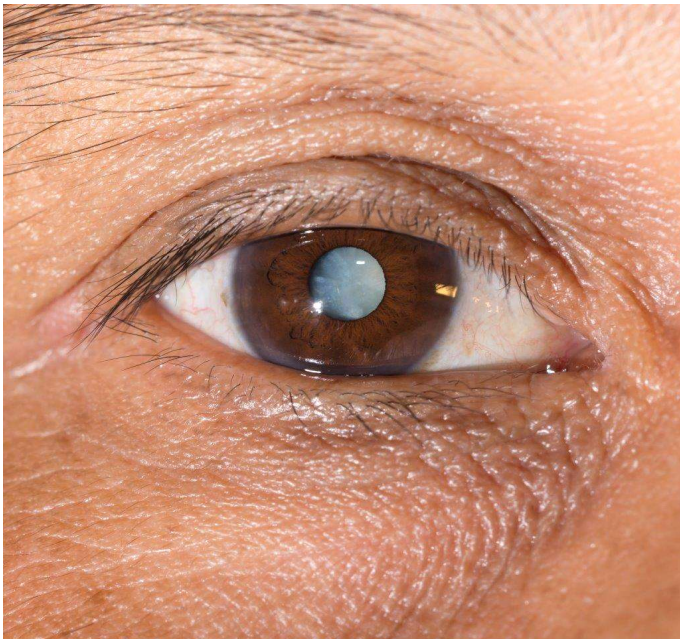


Cataract Information

Ophthalmology Department



Patient Information

during surgery. This means that patients can become more long or short sighted than planned following cataract surgery. This may require spectacles or contact lenses to be worn after surgery. Very rarely it may also involve further surgery. Laser refractive surgery is currently unavailable on the NHS.

On the Day of Surgery

- Please have something light to eat and drink unless having General Anaesthetic
- Take your medications as normal.
- Please wear clean loose-fitting clothing.
- Do not wear make-up, jewellery, nail polish, or acrylic nails.
- Do not bring valuables with you.

The operation

The surgery removes the cataract (cloudy lens) through a small incision and replaces it with an acrylic lens implant. It is not done using a laser, as many people think, and your eye is not taken out of the socket.

A small incision (3mm or < 1/4") is made to remove the cataract. The cataract is removed by ultrasound, which fragments the lens, allowing it to be removed by suction.

It is usual for the eye to feel gritty or feel like it has "something in it" for 2-3 weeks after the operation. Mild inflammation occurs after cataract surgery, which settles with eye drops but sometimes may last up to 6 weeks.

Complications of cataract surgery

- 1. Bruising around the eye or eyelids**
- 2. Allergy to the eye drops**
- 3. High pressure inside the eye.**
- 4. Clouding of the cornea.**
- 5. Dislocation or suboptimal strength of the artificial lens implant.**
- 6. Swelling of the retina (macular oedema).**
- 7. Retinal detachment.**

- 8. Posterior capsule rupture and/or vitreous loss (a split in the thin membrane containing the cataract).**
- 9. Refractive surprise (unexpected need for glasses).**
- 10. Part or the entire cataract falling into the back of the eye (usually requires further surgery to remove it).**
- 11. Endophthalmitis - infection of the eye.**

In some cases, further surgery may be required. Very rarely, some complications can result in blindness or loss of the eye.

One of the commonest occurrences after surgery is posterior capsular opacification - thickening behind the lens implant. This causes similar symptoms as a cataract (cloudy or blurred vision) and is easily corrected with laser treatment in the clinic.

What about glasses?

After the procedure, you still need to use glasses, particularly for reading. You may sometimes need glasses for both (distance and reading). About 6 weeks after surgery, you will be able to visit the optician for new glasses. You will be informed at your follow up appointment when to go to the optician.

If you are keen to reduce your dependency on glasses after cataract surgery, this may only be possible using a premium lens; however, these lens implants are not available on the NHS.

Further Information

If your appointment time is not suitable, please contact appointments on:

01784 884351

Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm

Further Information

We endeavour to provide an excellent service at all times, but should you have any concerns please, in the first instance, raise these with the Matron, Senior Nurse or Manager on duty.

If they cannot resolve your concern, please contact our Patient Experience Team on 01932 723553 or email asp-tr.patient.advice@nhs.net. If you remain concerned, the team can also advise upon how to make a formal complaint.

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