

YOUR CHOICE OF LENS IMPLANTS

When the eye's natural lens is removed during cataract surgery, it is replaced with an artificial lens implant. Today, patients are becoming increasingly involved in selecting the type of lens implant that meets their needs. Most choose the standard single-focus lens implant. It gives excellent vision and does not involve any extra costs. But if you are highly motivated to be less dependent on glasses, and are willing to pay extra for additional care and services, other options are available.

Standard Single-focus Lens Implants

If you do not mind wearing glasses, standard single-focus lens implants may be best for you. They provide excellent vision at one distance and glasses are usually required to achieve the full range of vision. For example, if the lens implant's focusing power is selected to give good distance vision, glasses will likely be needed to read, sew, work on crafts and use a computer. Over the last 20 years, our surgeons have implanted tens of thousands of single-focus lens implants and most patients are very happy with the vision they provide.

Strengths

- Excellent quality of vision
- Independent from glasses for many activities
- Proven safe and effective in millions of procedures
- Glare and halos around lights are rarely noticed
- Monovision is possible, where one eye is corrected for near vision and the other for distance, for people who have successfully tried this with contact lenses
- Evaluation and surgery can often be done the same day
- No extra costs

Limitations

- Unable to change focus for both near and distance vision
- Glasses are generally needed for either near or distance vision and sometimes both
- Do not correct astigmatism



**Most people are
happy with a
standard single
focus lens implant.**



**This lens implant
can correct certain
degrees of astigmatism.**

Lens Implants for Astigmatism

Astigmatism is a focusing problem caused either by an irregularly curved surface of the eye or an irregularly shaped lens. It is normally corrected with glasses, laser vision correction or specialty contact lenses, but several lens implants are available that can compensate for this condition. Lens implants for astigmatism must be precisely positioned and aligned inside the eye for maximum benefit. A small percentage of patients may require additional minor surgery to optimize positioning. Before surgery, these lenses require extra eye measurements and services that insurance companies do not usually pay for. If you are interested in reducing your astigmatism to become less dependent on glasses, discuss this option with your eye doctor.

Strengths

- Excellent quality of vision
- Independence from glasses for many activities
- Monovision is possible, where one eye is corrected for near vision and the other for distance, for people who have successfully tried this with contact lenses

Limitations

- Glasses are generally needed for either near or distance vision and sometimes both
- Can only correct certain amounts of astigmatism
- May require additional surgery to optimize position
- Evaluation and surgery cannot be done on the same day
- More exams are required
- Involve extra costs

Multifocal Lens Implants

If you have a strong desire to not wear glasses, these lenses may be right for you. Presbyopia is the eye's inability to change focus from distance to near—the age-related condition that usually requires reading glasses or bifocals between age 40 and 50. Several types of multifocal lens implants offer the possibility of seeing well at more than one distance without reading glasses or bifocals. Our surgeons generally prefer the ReZoom lens by Advanced Medical Optics. Multifocal lens implants cost significantly more than standard lens implants and require additional exams, tests and follow-up care. Insurance companies do not usually pay the extra costs of these services but financing options are available.

Multifocal lens implants are not well suited for everyone and require adaptive personalities to adjust to the vision they provide. They allow most people to function most of the time without glasses. But if you expect multifocal lens implants to provide perfect vision without glasses, you will likely be disappointed.

Strengths

- Greater independence from glasses for most activities
- Good reading vision in most situations
- Very good intermediate vision (computer distance)
- Excellent distance vision day and night
- Most people say they function well and are happy with the vision these lens implants provide

Limitations

- Glare or halos will be noticed around lights at night
- May take weeks or months to adapt to vision
- Approximately 20% of people will need glasses for some tasks
- May slightly reduce the ability to see subtle differences in shades of gray
- Do not correct astigmatism
- May require fine-tuning with laser vision correction
- Evaluation and surgery cannot be done on the same day
- More exams and doctor visits are required
- Involve significant extra costs

Multifocal lens implants can reduce dependency on glasses, but they require adaptive personalities to adjust to the vision they provide.



Multifocal Lens

Are Multifocal Lens Implants Right for You?

Measurements taken by your eye doctor will indicate whether your eyes are well suited for these lens implants. However, just as important is your personality and what you expect from your vision. To determine if multifocal lens implants are right for you, mark the following statements that best describe you.

Good Candidates

- I feel handicapped by my dependence on glasses.
- I think I look better without glasses.
- I worry about being incapacitated if I should ever lose my glasses.
- Having good vision without the hassle of glasses is more important to me than having perfect vision with glasses.
- I would be happy with my vision even if I needed to wear glasses part of the time.
- I am fairly easygoing and usually adjust well to change.
- I am not a perfectionist.
- I envy people who do not need to wear glasses.

Poor Candidates

- I like wearing glasses and would feel undressed without them.
- My work or hobbies consistently require attention to fine details.
- I do not easily adapt to change.
- I get stressed out when things don't seem to happen just the way I planned or expected.
- I am a perfectionist and little irregularities bother me.
- I would be very disappointed if I did not end up with perfect vision.
- With these lens implants, I would expect to never wear glasses again.

Your Decision

If you complete the adjacent checklists and provide answers to the questions below, your doctor will be better prepared to discuss multifocal lens implants with you.

- Yes, I am interested in multifocal lens implants.**
- No, I am not interested.**

If you are considering multifocal lens implants, share this completed sheet with your eye doctor.