What is a Cataract?

We all have a natural lens inside of our eyes. This lens helps to focus our vision. As our eyes age or other diseases affect the eyes, the natural lens becomes cloudy and disturbs good vision. This is called a cataract.

The Initial Cataract Evaluation

An initial evaluation is performed to determine if you have a cataract, and whether it can be safely removed. A full eye exam is performed during this visit, which involves dilating the eyes. Furthermore, we determine if cataract surgery will improve your vision. With cuts to Medicare and health insurance, we are now only allowed to perform the most basic diagnostic testing during this evaluation. In the past, we were able to perform these advanced preoperative tests during the initial cataract evaluation.

The Preoperative Refractive Evaluation (PRE)

After your initial evaluation, a PRE is scheduled on a separate day sometime shortly before your Cataract Surgery. During this evaluation, your eyes are typically not dilated and we perform a multitude of advanced diagnostic tests. The results of these tests are vital to the success of your cataract surgery. To schedule cataract surgery with Dr. McGarity, this evaluation is highly recommended.

Cataract Surgery

At our vision correction center, Dr. McGarity performs surgery using phacoemulsification. Using ultrasound technology, phacoemulsification gently dissolves and aspirates the cataract from the eye. Then a biocompatible, customized, prescription lens, known as an intraocular lens (IOL), is permanently inserted in your eye. The PRE is essential in providing the most accurate measurements to select the best IOL prescription for your eye. The goal is to give you high definition vision, if possible, with cataract surgery.
Vision Options with Cataract Surgery

With new advancements in preoperative testing, surgical techniques and IOL technology, you have some amazing options. There are standard options and Advanced Technology Cataract Surgery™ options. Medicare and most private insurance companies are providing coverage for Basic Cataract Surgery: Basic diagnostic testing + Cataract surgery + 90 days of postoperative care.

**Standard Options**

PRE + Basic Cataract Surgery: A high definition, single focus (monofocal) IOL is used to replace the cataractous lens. This surgical option will help provide you with more clear distance vision, but you will still be dependent on prescription glasses or contacts to see well, especially for near vision. This is a great option for patients who want to continue wearing glasses or contacts after surgery.

**Advanced Technology Cataract Surgery™ Options**

PRE + Basic Cataract Surgery + Advanced Technology IOL + Extended Postoperative Care (365 days): Eye surgery has experienced so many revolutionary breakthroughs. We can now correct for Astigmatism with the AcrySof Toric IQ® IOL. If you have Astigmatism, this IOL will give you the best distance vision possible even if you still need glasses after cataract surgery. For those patients who want to free themselves of bifocals, the AcrySof ReSTOR® multifocal IOL may be a great option. If you elect to have one of these Advanced Technology IOLs, we provide more extensive postoperative care including laser vision enhancement, if needed, as part of this upgrade. To make your procedure more affordable, we offer financing and low monthly payments, including 0% financing through Care Credit®.

Thank you for allowing us to take excellent care of you and your eyes. We are confident that you will be thrilled with our clinic, staff, skills and your new vision.

Timothy D. McGarity, M.D.