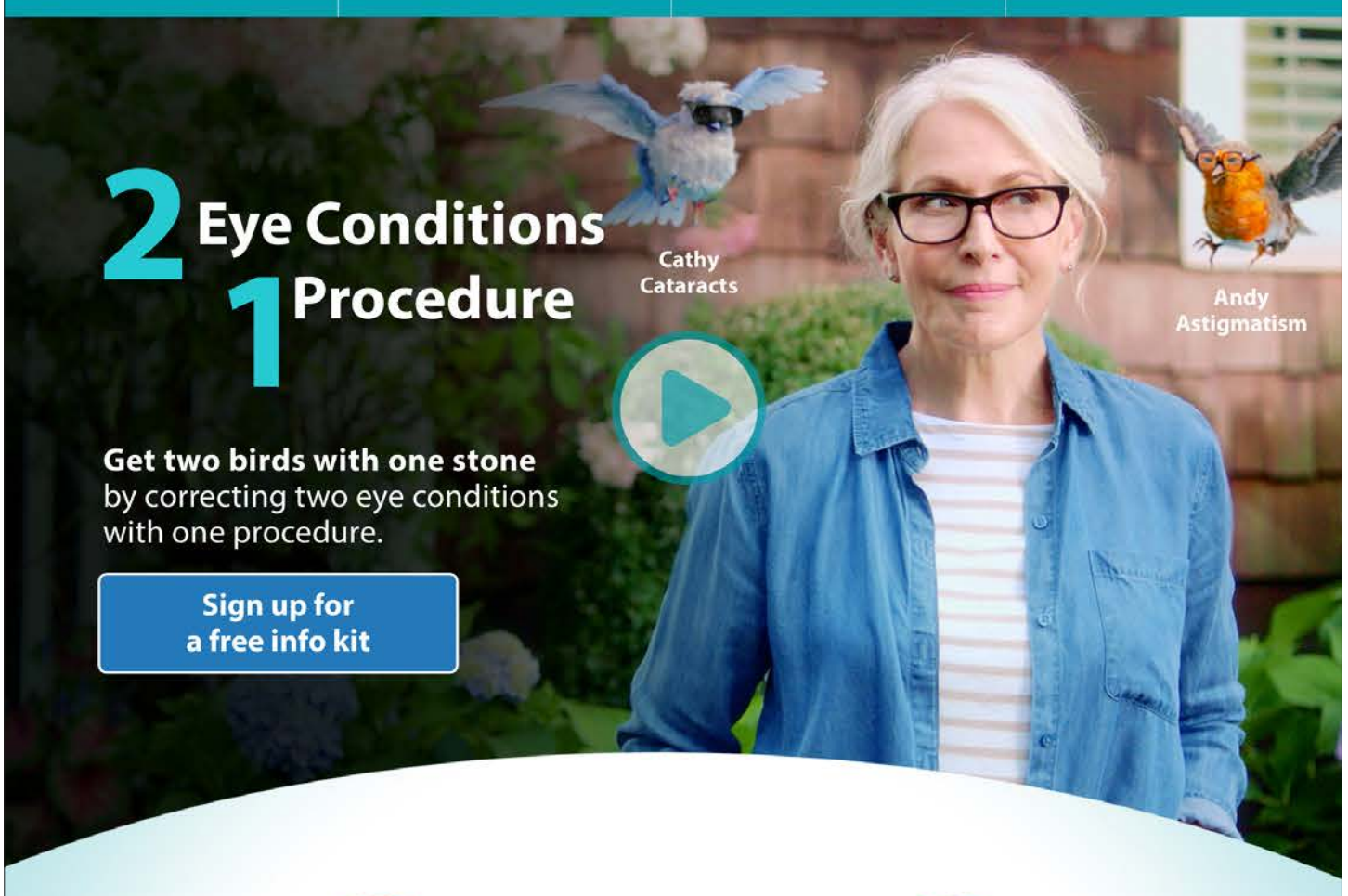
2 Eye Conditions 1 Procedure



Get two birds with one stone by correcting two eye conditions with one procedure.

Sign up for a free info kit

Real cataract **surgery stories**

Hear for yourself

Get to know **all about cataracts**

Learn about cataracts, astigmatism, and more

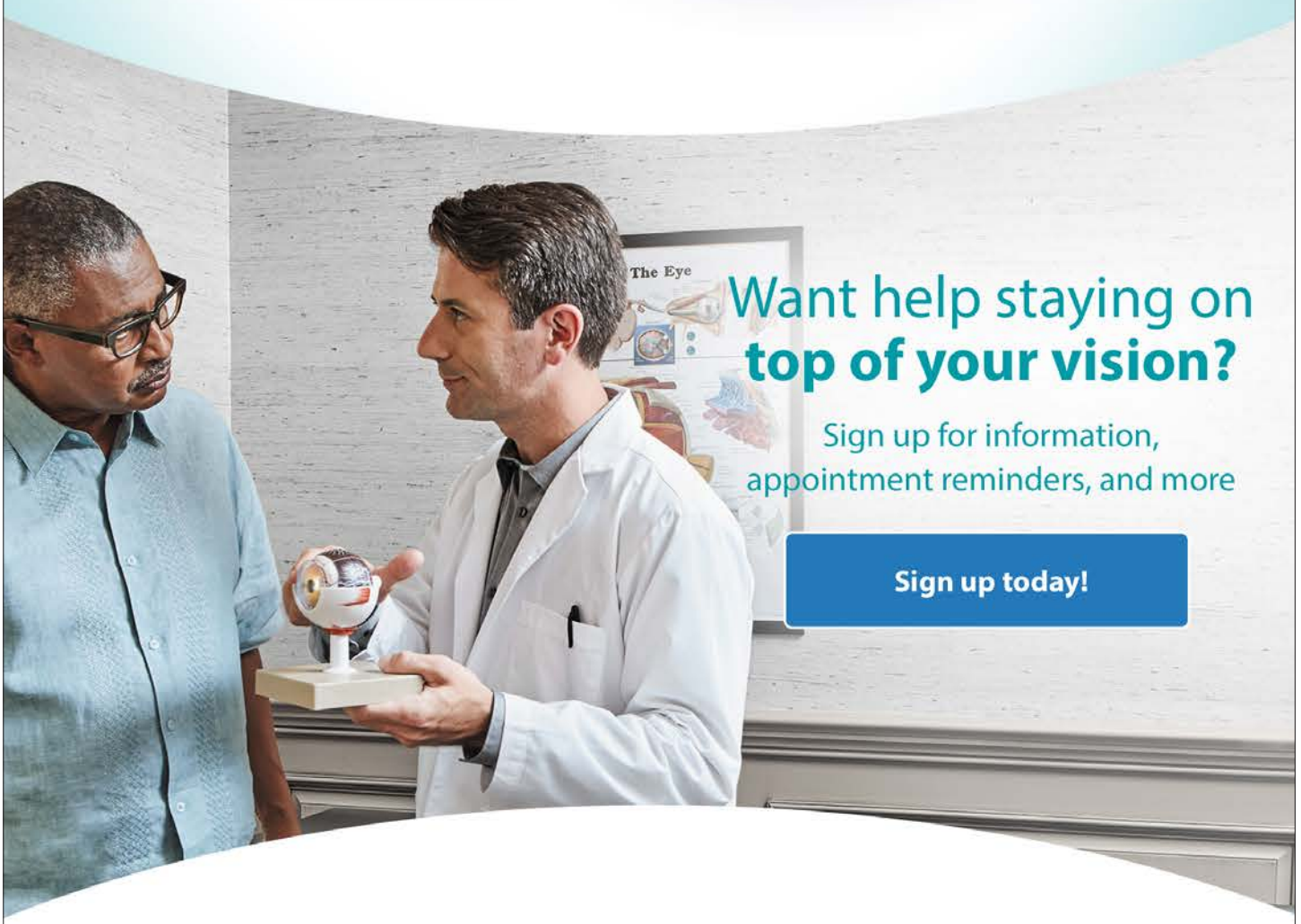
Explore cataract surgery **options and opportunities**

Find a lens that's right for you

Clearer vision **starts with a plan**

Start planning your cataract surgery today





Want help staying on **top of your vision?**

Sign up for information, appointment reminders, and more

Sign up today!

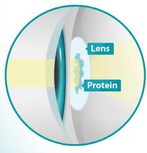
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What are **cataracts?**

Watch the video to find out



Cataracts are extremely common and **a natural part of aging**



Cataracts occur when the lens in your eye becomes cloudy from natural proteins that build up over time. As the condition progresses, the clouded lens allows less light to pass through your eye and your vision becomes blurred.

Cataracts will happen to **almost everyone, in fact:**

Cataracts currently affect more than 20.5 million Americans over age 40

90%

By age 65, over 90% of people in the US will develop cataracts. By age 75, their cataracts can really affect their vision

30.1

By 2020, the total number of people with cataracts is expected to grow to 30.1 million



Early signs and symptoms of **cataracts are hard to notice**

Keep an eye out for changes in your vision, as cataracts affect people differently.

Select any of the symptoms below to see how cataracts could be affecting your vision.

- Cloudy or blurry vision
- Trouble seeing at night
- Light and glare sensitivity
- Seeing "halos" around lights
- Fading or yellowing of colors
- Double vision



The simulated images above are for illustration purposes only.

Want to **learn more about cataracts?**

Receive information straight to your inbox

Sign up today

Cataracts and astigmatism: what you need to know



Many people will experience cloudiness in their vision due to cataracts, and at the same time, they'll have difficulties seeing far away without their glasses or contacts due to astigmatism. This is because you can have cataracts and other eye conditions, like astigmatism, at the same time.

When you're ready to correct your cataracts, you could also correct any astigmatism. Plus, the lens you and your doctor choose may reduce your dependence on glasses for distance.



YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Learn the facts **about cataract surgery**

Explore how cataract surgery works.

Learn more

Discover what it's like **living with cataracts**

See how cataract surgery helped people see clearer and corrected other vision conditions, like astigmatism, even if they've had it their entire lives.

Hear what it's like

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Cataract surgery:
replacing your cloudy lens



Cathy Cataracts

DID YOU KNOW?

Cataracts are normal and extremely common. There are nearly

4,000,000

CATARACT SURGERIES PERFORMED IN THE US EACH YEAR. IT'S ONE OF THE MOST COMMON SURGERIES.



A common condition, **commonly misunderstood:**

They **CAN'T** be prevented, but they **CAN** be treated with surgery.

You'll be glad **you did it!**

According to an AARP telephone survey of 250 people who had cataract surgery



people say cataract surgery was easier than expected

88% of people said they'd recommend cataract surgery to a friend or family member

85% of people say their cataract surgery addressed all or most of their vision problems



people were less dependent on glasses

Click here to learn the common risks of cataract surgery

KNOW YOUR CATARACT EYE

Ready to find out your cataract EYE-Q?

Take this quiz and find out just how much you know about cataracts.

QUESTION 1 OF 10

1. Cataracts can be prevented if you're careful.

○ True ○ False

NEXT >

Want more **cataract surgery facts?**

Receive information straight to your inbox

Sign up today

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Discover what it's like **living with cataracts**

See how cataract surgery helped people see clearer and corrected other vision conditions they've had their entire lives.

Learn more

More **cataract questions?**

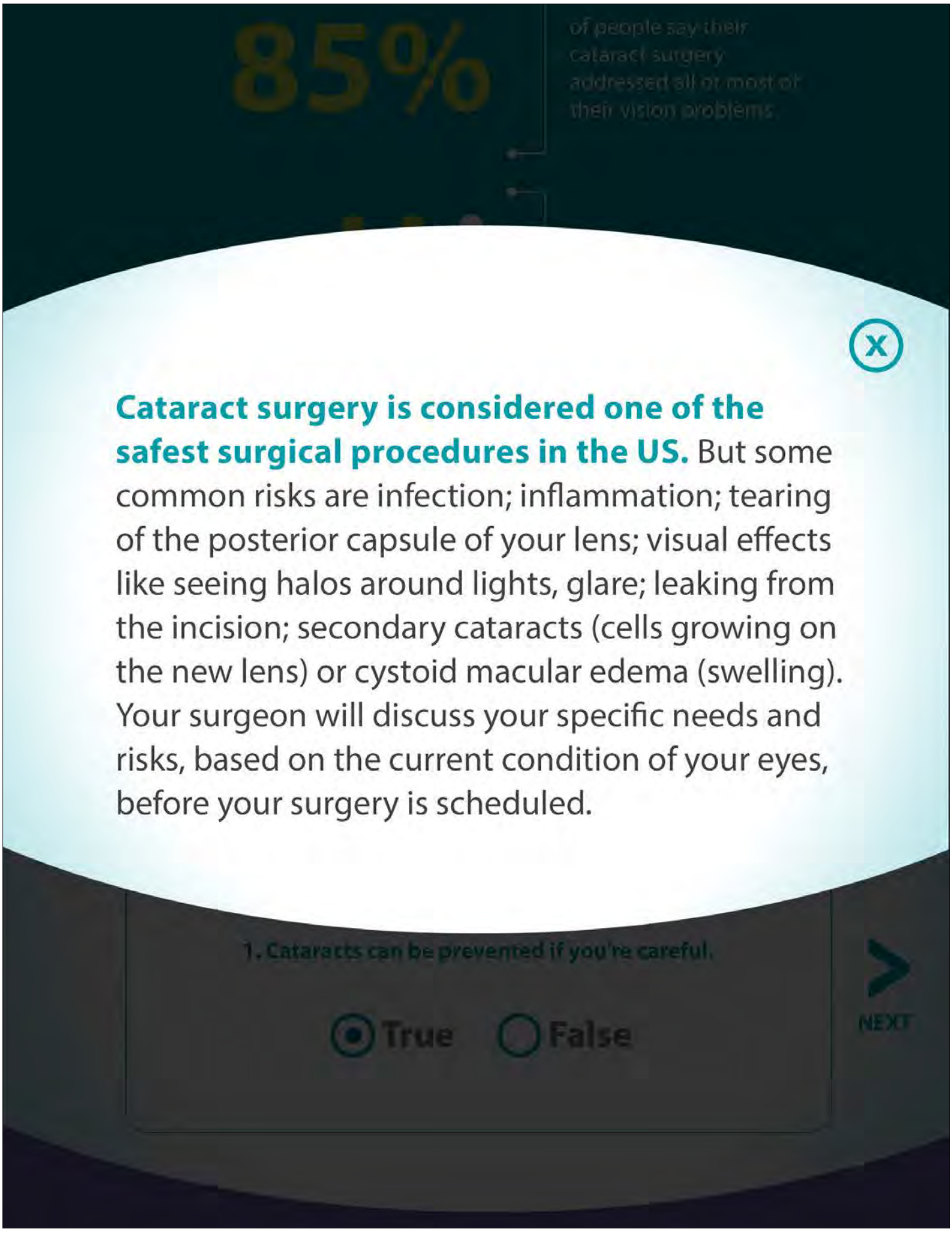
See a list of frequently asked questions about cataract surgery, and more.

See FAQs



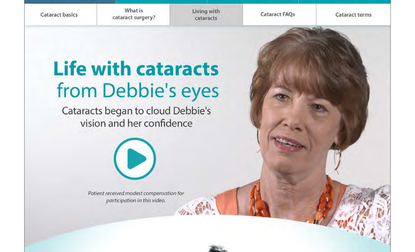
Andy Astigmatism

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85%
of people say their cataract surgery addressed all or most of their vision problems
Cataract surgery is considered one of the safest surgical procedures in the US. But some common risks are infection; inflammation; tearing of the posterior capsule of your lens; visual effects like seeing halos around lights, glare; leaking from the incision; secondary cataracts (cells growing on the new lens) or cystoid macular edema (swelling). Your surgeon will discuss your specific needs and risks, based on the current condition of your eyes, before your surgery is scheduled.
1. Cataracts can be prevented if you're careful.
True
False
NEXT

Life with cataracts from Debbie's eyes

Cataracts began to cloud Debbie's vision and her confidence



Patient received modest compensation for participation in this video.



Cathy Cataracts

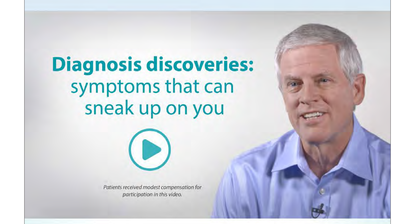
Seeing the symptoms of cataracts

After being diagnosed with cataracts, you might notice changes to your vision that will help you and your doctor know how mature or advanced your cataracts have become. Once your symptoms begin to cause vision loss that affects your daily life, talk to your doctor about planning for surgery.

Need help finding a cataract surgeon?

Locate one near you

Diagnosis discoveries: symptoms that can sneak up on you



Patients received modest compensation for participation in this video.

Your cataract diagnosis may come as a surprise



Cathy Cataracts

You might be surprised to learn that you can have cataracts and not even realize it, or think your symptoms are caused by other vision issues.

Want to discover more cataract symptoms?

Learn more



Andy Astigmatism

Seeing with cataracts

Discover how cataracts could begin affecting your vision over time.



The simulated images above are for illustration purposes only.



Early cataracts — Advanced cataracts

Move Cathy Cataracts along the slider to see how your vision could gradually change with cataracts.

The right time for surgery is when it's right for you

Usually, eye doctors will recommend you have surgery when your vision begins to affect your daily life. For example, when you can't drive as well at night as you used to, or can no longer enjoy watching a film.

Talk with your eye doctor about when would be the best time for you to start considering surgery and what lens would provide you with the best vision after the procedure.



Cathy Cataracts

Want help staying on top of your vision?

Sign up for information, appointment reminders, and more

Sign up today!

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Have more cataract questions?

See a list of frequently asked questions about cataract surgery, and more.

See FAQs

Look up common cataract terms

Get a quick list of common words you may hear about cataracts and surgery.

Learn more

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Cataract **frequently asked questions (FAQs)**

As with any procedure, it's natural to have questions. Check out our list of cataract FAQs below for help finding some answers.

What causes cataracts and how can I prevent them?

There's no real way to prevent cataracts, as they are simply a part of aging and are caused by a natural buildup of protein in your eye's lens. Fortunately, they *can* be treated with a common and generally safe surgery.

My eye doctor said I have mature or advanced cataracts. What does this mean?

Mature or advanced cataracts means that your cataracts have developed to the point that your lens appears to be mostly opaque and makes things difficult to see. When you have mature or advanced cataracts you will usually require surgery.

When am I likely to develop cataracts?

People start to develop cataracts as early as their 40s, but generally don't start to notice symptoms of their cataracts until their 60s.

Is there any way to correct my cataracts, besides surgery?

No, but you can manage some of the early **symptoms of cataracts** with new prescription glasses or contact lenses, and by wearing sunglasses to counteract light sensitivity until it's time to have surgery.

When should I get my cataract surgery?

Usually, you only need to have cataract surgery when your cataracts start to affect your everyday vision. If you're having trouble reading, watching TV, or driving, it's time to talk to your eye doctor about next steps.



What will happen before I have the surgery?

Generally, a week or two before surgery, your doctor will let you know if there are any medications you should stop taking before the surgery, and test your eyes to see what replacement lens could give you the best visual outcome.

If you have another condition that also affects how well you see, like astigmatism (where your cornea is shaped differently and causes blurred vision) or presbyopia (not being able to see close up), your surgeon may discuss a replacement lens that could treat both during your cataract surgery. Talk to your doctor about the best options to free yourself from your cataracts, as well as your glasses.

It's important to note that, while your health insurance typically covers the cost of conventional surgery and a standard monofocal lens, some out-of-pocket expenses are associated with advanced-technology lenses, like an astigmatism-correcting lens or a multifocal lens. Make sure you ask your surgeon if they offer payment plans so that you can make a one-time investment to achieve better vision.

What are my replacement lens options?

Depending on your needs, you can talk to your doctor about advanced-technology lenses, that also correct cataracts and other vision issues, like astigmatism (all images are blurry), or presbyopia (trouble seeing up close).

These are often referred to as toric IOLs (that correct astigmatism to help you see far away) and multifocal IOLs (that correct presbyopia to help you see near, far, and in between).

Will my choice of replacement lens make that much of a difference to my vision?

The lens you and your doctor choose can make a big difference to your vision after surgery. If you know you have astigmatism, then an advanced-technology lens that can correct both your cataract and astigmatism may be your best option for seeing most things clearly without glasses. If you have difficulty seeing things close up due to presbyopia, there are also lenses available to help you see more clearly without relying on reading glasses as much.

Want to start learning about your surgery choices? Check out **Cataract Surgery Lens Options** to learn more about replacement lens options and how to talk to your surgeon about what you want out of your cataract surgery.

What other options do I have for cataract surgery?

You and your doctor can decide on whether you want to have a laser or manual surgery. Both techniques are shown to be generally safe and successful.

What are the risks of cataract surgery?

Cataract surgery is generally regarded as one of the safest surgeries you can have. Although rare, risks can include: inflammation, infection, bleeding, swelling, retinal detachment, glaucoma, secondary cataract, or loss of vision.

When will my vision return to normal?

You can generally expect your vision to begin improving within a few days.

If you wear glasses due to astigmatism and don't choose a lens that corrects astigmatism and cataracts, you will still need to wear glasses after surgery. Similarly, if you wear readers to help you see up close for presbyopia, and don't choose a multifocal lens, you'll still need to wear glasses after surgery as well. Make sure you talk to your doctor about what to expect after surgery.

Looking to learn more about lenses? Visit **Cataract Surgery Lens Options** to discover the right lens for you.



Still curious **about cataracts?**

Sign up to learn more

Or contact one of our cataract counselors at **1-844-MYCATARACT (1-844-692-2827)**

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Discover common **cataract terms**

Learn how to talk about cataracts and your vision.

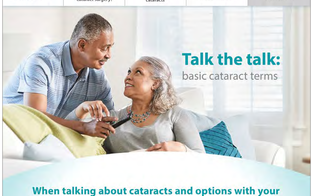
Discover more

What it's really like to **live with cataracts**

Hear from someone like you who is living with cataracts.

Learn more

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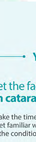


Talk the talk: basic cataract terms

When talking about cataracts and options with your doctor, you can refer to the handy list of cataract terms below to give you a better understanding of the condition and your treatment options.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

WORD	DEFINITION	HOW YOU MIGHT USE IT
A		
ADVANCED (CATARACTS)	Sometimes also called a mature cataract, this means that your natural lens has become very cloudy or discolored and you're probably having problems with your vision. Cataracts usually develop slowly, and at first are so small they do not affect your vision. After age 60 many people begin having trouble seeing with cataracts.	Do I have advanced cataracts? Are my cataracts advanced enough to consider surgery?
ASTIGMATISM	This is an eye condition where the shape of your eye prevents light from focusing properly on the retina. Normally, your eye is shaped like a basketball, but with astigmatism it's shaped more like a football. Many people correct their astigmatism with glasses or contact lenses.	Do I have astigmatism as well as cataracts? Could I correct my astigmatism and cataracts during cataract surgery?
ASTIGMATIM-CORRECTING REPLACEMENT LENS	Also known as a toric IOL, this is an artificial lens used to replace your natural cataract clouded lens and correct your astigmatism at the same time. What this does is provide a clear, focused image to the area while also altering how light reaches the retina, so that it's no longer distorted because of the oblong (football) shape of your eye.	Do I have an astigmatism? Could an astigmatism correcting replacement lens help me see better after surgery? Do you have payment plans available for an astigmatism correcting replacement lens?
C		
CATARACT	This is a natural clouding of the clear lens of your eye. Cataracts are caused by a gradual buildup of proteins.	How advanced are my cataracts? How could cataracts be affecting my vision?
CATARACT SURGERY/ PROCEDURE	This is a common surgery where the natural cloudy lens in your eye is removed and replaced with a clear artificial lens (called an intraocular lens or an IOL).	When should I consider having cataract surgery? What happens during and after cataract surgery?
CORNEA	This is the clear, domed surface on the front of the eye that protects and helps to focus your vision. 	What is the cornea?
G		
GLAUCOMA	This disease slowly affects your eye's optic nerve as fluid builds up and causes pressure in the eye. In its early stages glaucoma is treated with eye drops, though if left untreated it can cause blindness.	If I have glaucoma, how will that affect my cataract surgery?
H		
HALOS (LIGHT HALOS)	This is a common symptom of cataracts, and causes bright circles to appear around lights. This might be most noticeable when driving at night and seeing the headlights of oncoming traffic.	How could halos be affecting my ability to drive at night? When I drive at night I see halos around bright lights. Will cataract surgery help to correct this?
HYPEROPIA	Also known as farsightedness, this means you can see things clearly far away, but have trouble seeing things up close. Farsightedness is caused by having a shorter than normal eye or an overly flat cornea, which affects how light focuses inside your eye.	If I have hyperopia, how will that affect my choices for cataract surgery?
I		
IOL (INTRAOCULAR LENS)	This is an artificial lens placed in the eye to replace the eye's clouded natural lens. Today's IOLs are flexible and are about one-third the size of a dime. You may also hear an IOL referred to as a "replacement lens," a "cataract replacement lens," or an "artificial lens."	Which IOL could give me the best vision outcome after cataract surgery? What is the difference between a standard IOL and an advanced-technology IOL?
L		
LASER ASSISTED SURGERY	If you opt for this kind of cataract surgery, the laser will do parts of the procedure typically done with a scalpel.	What are the benefits of laser assisted surgery? Is laser assisted surgery covered by my insurance?
M		
MANUAL (BLADE) SURGERY	This kind of surgery means a small incision will be made to your cornea using a handheld blade.	What are the benefits of manual (blade) surgery? Is manual (blade) surgery covered by my insurance?
MONOFOCAL	This is a type of IOL that has one point of focus. A monofocal lens will fix your cataracts, but you may still need to wear your glasses or contact lenses to see close up or far away. This is typically what is referred to when your doctor talks about a "standard" IOL.	Could a monofocal lens be right for my vision? Will I still have to wear my glasses after cataract surgery with a monofocal lens?
MULTIFOCAL LENS	These types of replacement lenses are designed with a series of focal zones or rings to help focus at all distances. You will often hear these lenses called "presbyopia-correcting lenses" because they're specifically designed to provide a full range of vision, including near (for presbyopia correction), intermediate, and distance.	Could a multifocal lens be right for my vision? Will I still have to wear my glasses after cataract surgery with a multifocal lens?
MYOPIA	Also known as nearsightedness, this is a common eye condition where distant objects appear blurry. Nearsightedness is caused by having a longer eye than normal, a lens that is too thick, or an overly curved cornea that affects how light focuses inside your eye.	Do I have myopia and cataracts? How will my surgery affect myopia? Will it make it better or worse?
O		
OPHTHALMOLOGIST	This is a highly trained doctor who specializes in eye and vision care. The main difference between an optometrist and an ophthalmologist is that an ophthalmologist is licensed to practice medicine and surgery.	Should I speak with my ophthalmologist about my current medications before cataract surgery? Can I ask my ophthalmologist about how long my surgery should take?
OPTOMETRIST	This is a health care professional that specializes in vision care. They can diagnose, treat, and manage a range of vision issues, though they do not perform eye surgery. You most likely will visit an optometrist for your yearly eye exam or glasses and/or contact fittings.	My optometrist told me I have a slight astigmatism. How will that affect my cataract surgery, and will I still need my glasses? My optometrist prescribed reading glasses for me because I can't read up close. Is there a replacement lens that can reduce my need for glasses all the time?
P		
PRESBYOPIA	This is an eye condition caused by a natural hardening of the eye's lens and changes to the muscles surrounding the eye that makes focusing on things close up difficult. Although everyone will develop presbyopia, the symptoms will be more noticeable for some people.	Do I have presbyopia and cataracts? Are there replacement lens options that can help correct my presbyopia?
PROTEIN	These are large molecules made up of amino acids that help our body function. The lens of our eye is primarily made up of water and protein. As we age, the proteins begin to clump together to form a cataract and start to block light from entering our eye.	How does the protein in my eye cause cataracts? How long does it take for natural eye protein to become a cataract?
R		
REPLACEMENT LENS	This is another name for an IOL (intraocular lens). See IOL to learn more.	What replacement lens could give me the best vision outcome after cataract surgery? How can I find a replacement lens that will reduce my need for glasses after surgery?
RETINA	This is the light-sensitive layer of tissue that lines the inside of the eye and sends messages through the optic nerve to the brain to be read as images.	How does light focusing on my retina affect my vision? How will replacement lenses help light focus on my retina?
T		
TORIC IOL	This is another name for an astigmatism-correcting lens. See astigmatism-correcting lens to learn more.	Could a toric IOL help me see without glasses after surgery? If I have astigmatism and cataracts, how could a toric IOL improve my vision?



Cathy
Cataracts

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Get the facts on cataracts

Take the time to get familiar with the condition.

Learn more

What it's really like to live with cataracts

Discover how cataracts may be affecting your vision and your life.

Hear what it's like

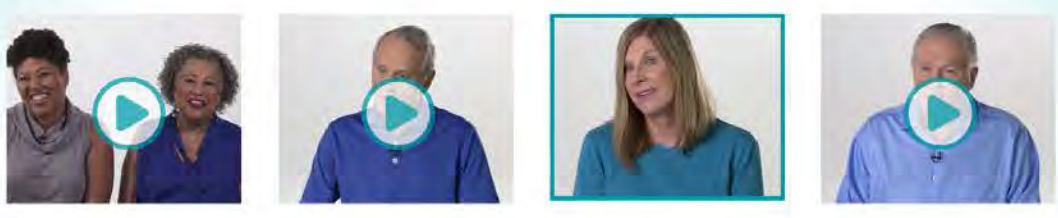
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Real people. Real **cataract surgery stories**



Patients received modest compensation for participation in this video.



Choosing an **astigmatism-correcting lens for cataract surgery**

Just like you and your doctor can choose glasses or contacts to correct your vision, you can choose an advanced-technology lens that corrects cataracts at the same time.



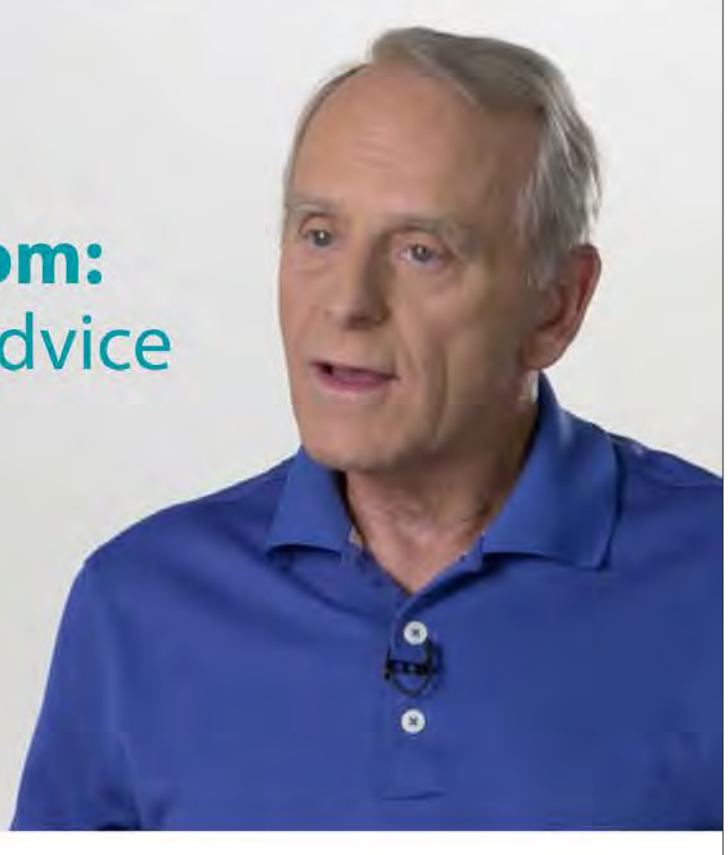
Do you want to say farewell to glasses and astigmatism after surgery?

Patients received modest compensation for participation in this video.

Your lens choice could help you **say goodbye to glasses**

Cataract surgery doesn't just mean seeing better. Depending on the lens you and your doctor choose, it could mean getting back to a life without glasses.

Words of wisdom: cataract surgery advice



Patients received modest compensation for participation in this video.

Learn about life **after cataract surgery**

Few people know more about the benefits of cataract surgery than those who have had the procedure. As well as learning from testimonials like these, talk to your eye doctor about your cataract surgery options.



Andy Astigmatism

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Looking to say goodbye **to glasses?**

Learn more about astigmatism-correcting lens options for cataract surgery.

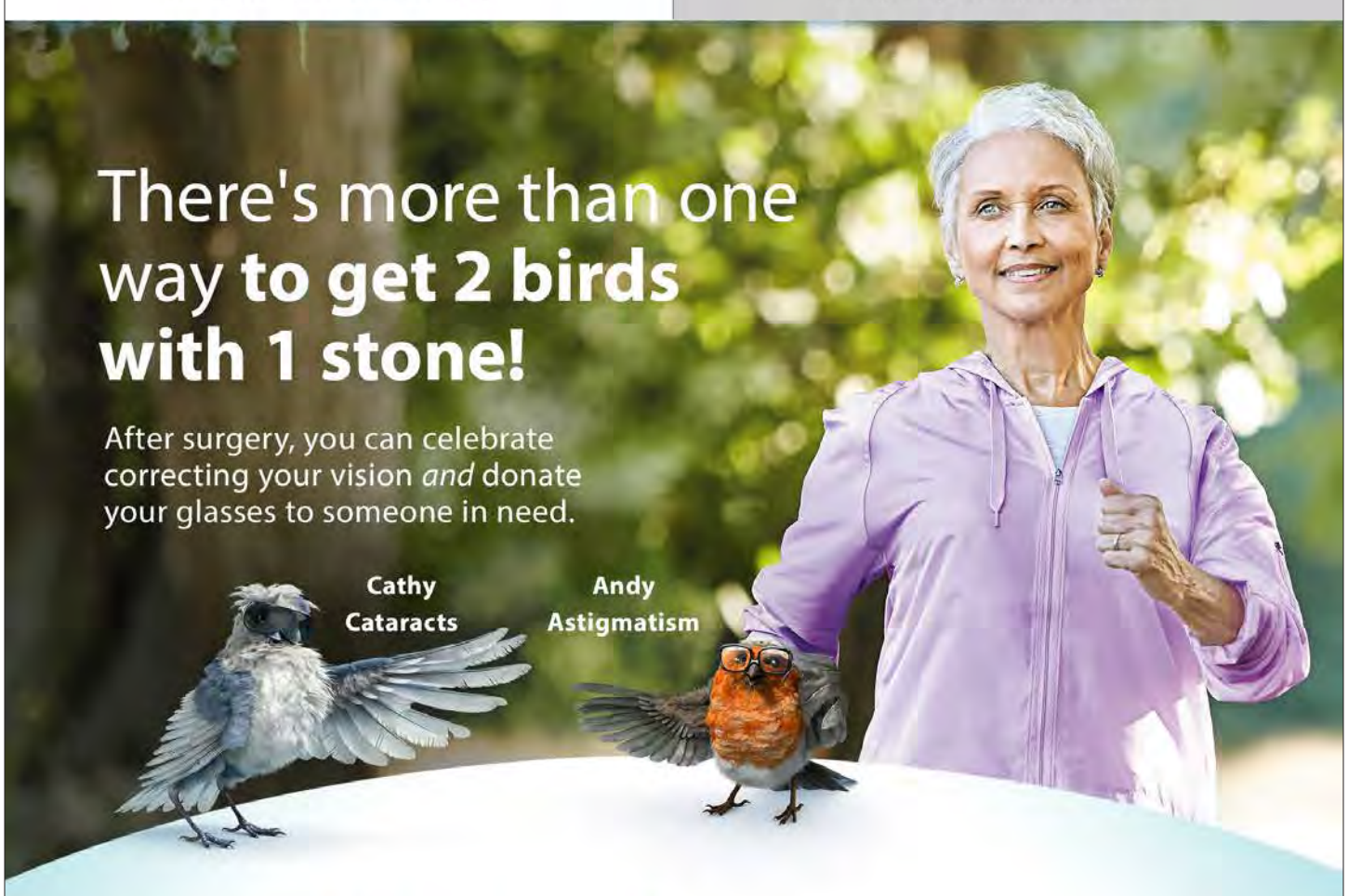
Find out more

Seeing clearer? **Why not donate your glasses?**

Learn how you can donate your old glasses after cataract surgery to those in need.

Give back here

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Want to give someone the gift of better vision?

Here's how:

1. Sign up to receive your free information kit

Click the link below to sign up to receive a free cataract kit and a donation envelope for your glasses after surgery.

2. Correct your cataracts and other vision conditions at the same time

When you have cataract surgery, you and your doctor may be able to choose a replacement lens to help you say goodbye to your glasses and donate them to someone in need.

3. Drop your old glasses into the nearest mailbox

Put the donation envelope in the nearest mailbox; no need to pay for postage.

4. Provide better vision to those in need

All donated glasses will go to the Lions Club, where volunteers will clean, sort, and distribute your glasses to people in need. It's that easy!

Want to give the gift of vision after cataract surgery?

Pledge to donate your glasses by signing up!

I pledge to donate my glasses!

0 0 7 4 5 0

people have pledged to give the gift of vision so far!

All about Alcon and the Lions Club Recycle for Sight program

Alcon, the global leader in eye care, and the Lions Club have teamed up to make our Goodbye Glasses drive possible.

So how does it work? Lions Club volunteers gather up used glasses and drop them off at the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers (LERCs), where they're sorted, cleaned, and prepared for donation. The glasses are then given to people in lower-income communities around the world, helping children and adults alike achieve better vision, and a better quality of life.



YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Real people. **Real cataract surgery stories.**

Hear how cataract surgery and finding the right replacement lens can change your outlook.

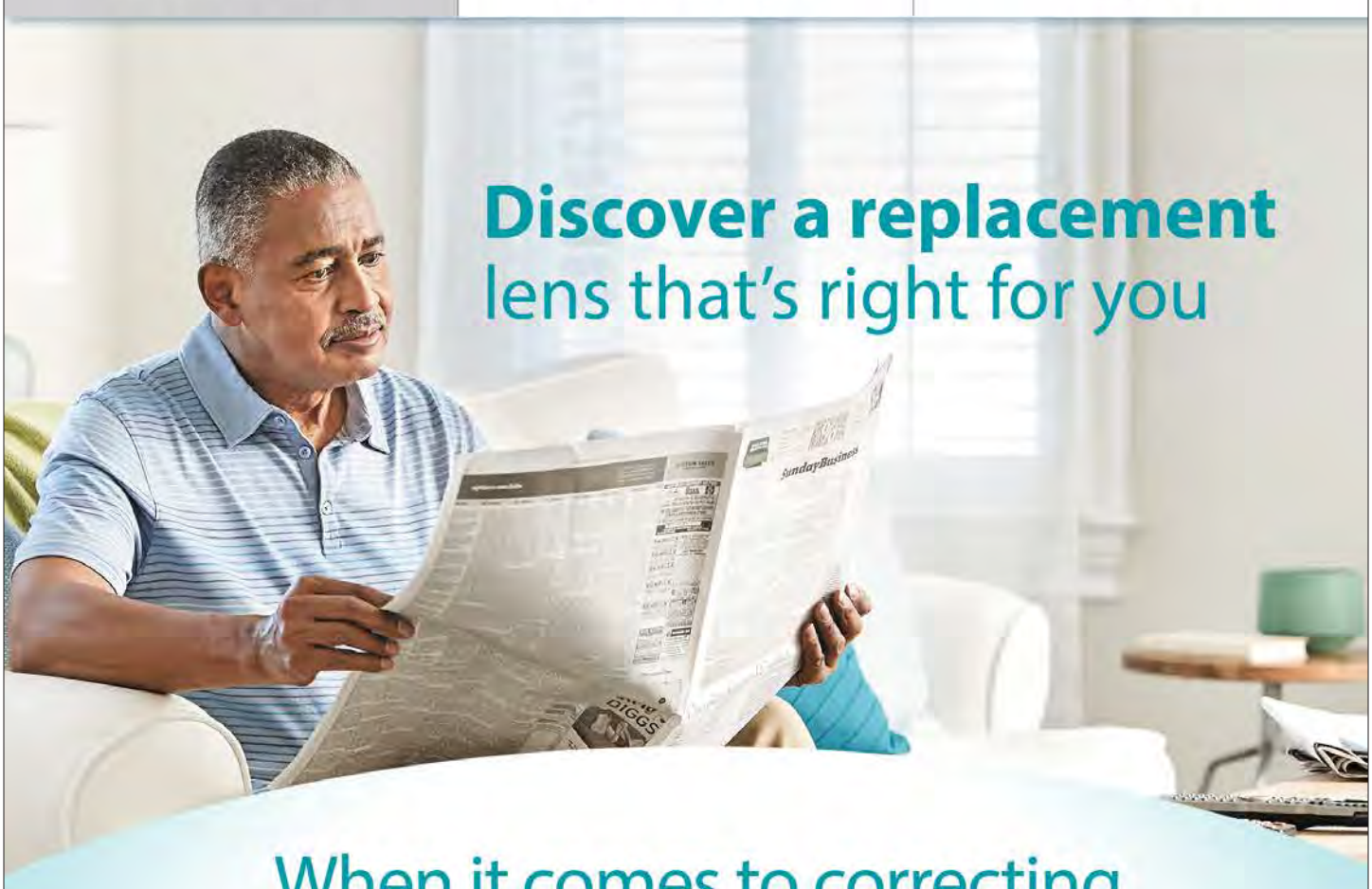
Hear real surgery stories

Looking to **say goodbye to glasses?**

Learn about your lens options for cataract surgery.

Find out more

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Discover a replacement lens that's right for you

When it comes to correcting your cataracts, it's important to **know your eye conditions and lens options.**

Check out the profiles* below to discover how cataracts and other eye conditions could be affecting your vision, and whether a similar lens could be right for you.

*Composite profiles based on real patient testimonials.



Elizabeth*: I have worn glasses for years to see clearly at distances due to my astigmatism. But now, **things have gotten cloudy and so blurry** that not even a new prescription helps much.

Elizabeth, 67, Texas*



Louis*: I have been wearing prescription glasses to see up close for a while now. But even with them on, particularly in dim lighting, **things are cloudy and it's hard to focus** when I try to read something.

Louis, 72, California*



Melissa*: I haven't needed glasses—even readers—but **it's getting harder to see distance clearly** (even just across my backyard). Colors seem to be less bright, and everything is cloudy.

Melissa, 65, New York*

Cataract surgery is considered one of the safest surgical procedures in the US. But some common risks are infection; inflammation; tearing of the posterior capsule of your lens; visual effects like seeing halos around lights, glare; leaking from the incision; secondary cataracts (cells growing on the new lens) or cystoid macular edema (swelling). Your surgeon will discuss your specific needs and risks, based on the current condition of your eyes, before your surgery is scheduled.

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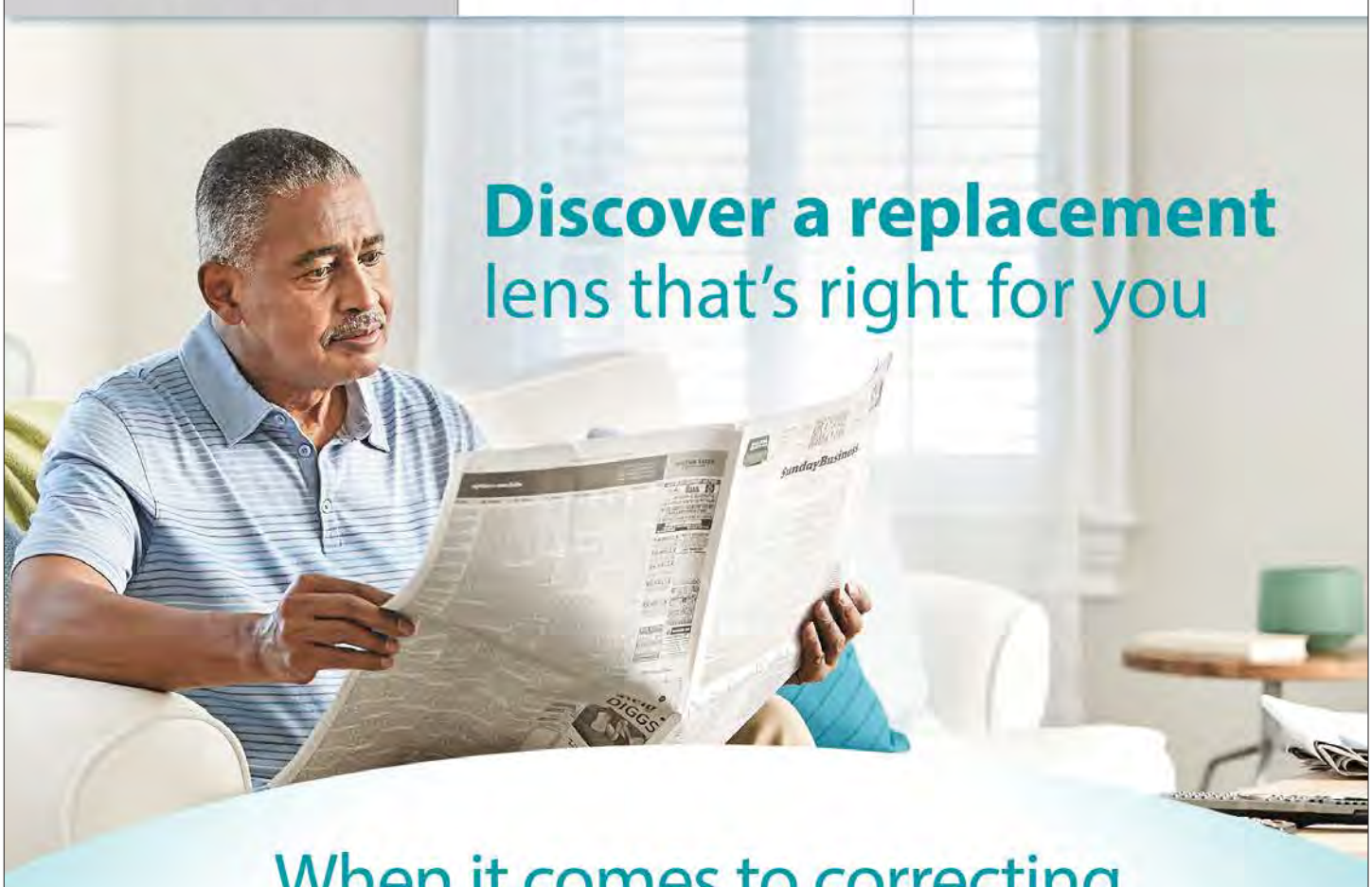
Find out more

Want clearer vision **across all distances?**

Discover a multifocal lens that can help you see clearer near, far, and in between.

Explore multifocal lens options

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Elizabeth*: I have worn glasses for years to see clearly at distances due to my astigmatism. But now, **things have gotten cloudy and so blurry** that not even a new prescription helps much.



Louis*: I have been wearing prescription glasses to see up close for a while now. But even with them on, particularly in dim lighting, **things are cloudy and it's hard to focus** when I try to read something.



Melissa*: I haven't needed glasses—even readers—but **it's getting harder to see distance clearly** (even just across my backyard). Colors seem to be less bright, and everything is cloudy.

Elizabeth, 67, Texas* | **Louis,** 72, California* | **Melissa,** 65, New York*

What could be causing the problem?	Cataracts + astigmatism
Which lens could improve their vision?	An astigmatism-correcting lens
What could their vision results look like?	Elizabeth* could achieve crisper, clearer distance vision, like before she had cataracts, and maybe even reduce her dependency on distance vision glasses with an astigmatism-correcting lens.
Could it be right for me, too?	If you have vision problems similar to Elizabeth's,* talk to your eye doctor about a replacement lens that lets you correct both cataracts and astigmatism. Click here to find out more.

Not everyone with astigmatism and cataracts will qualify for an astigmatism-correcting lens due to pre-existing eye health or medical conditions. Make sure you talk to your doctor about your medical condition and what options may be right for you.

Cataract surgery is considered one of the safest surgical procedures in the US. But some common risks are infection; inflammation; tearing of the posterior capsule of your lens; visual effects like seeing halos around lights, glare; leaking from the incision; secondary cataracts (cells growing on the new lens) or cystoid macular edema (swelling). Your surgeon will discuss your specific needs and risks, based on the current condition of your eyes, before your surgery is scheduled.

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Looking to say **goodbye to glasses?**

Learn more about astigmatism-correcting lens options for cataract surgery.

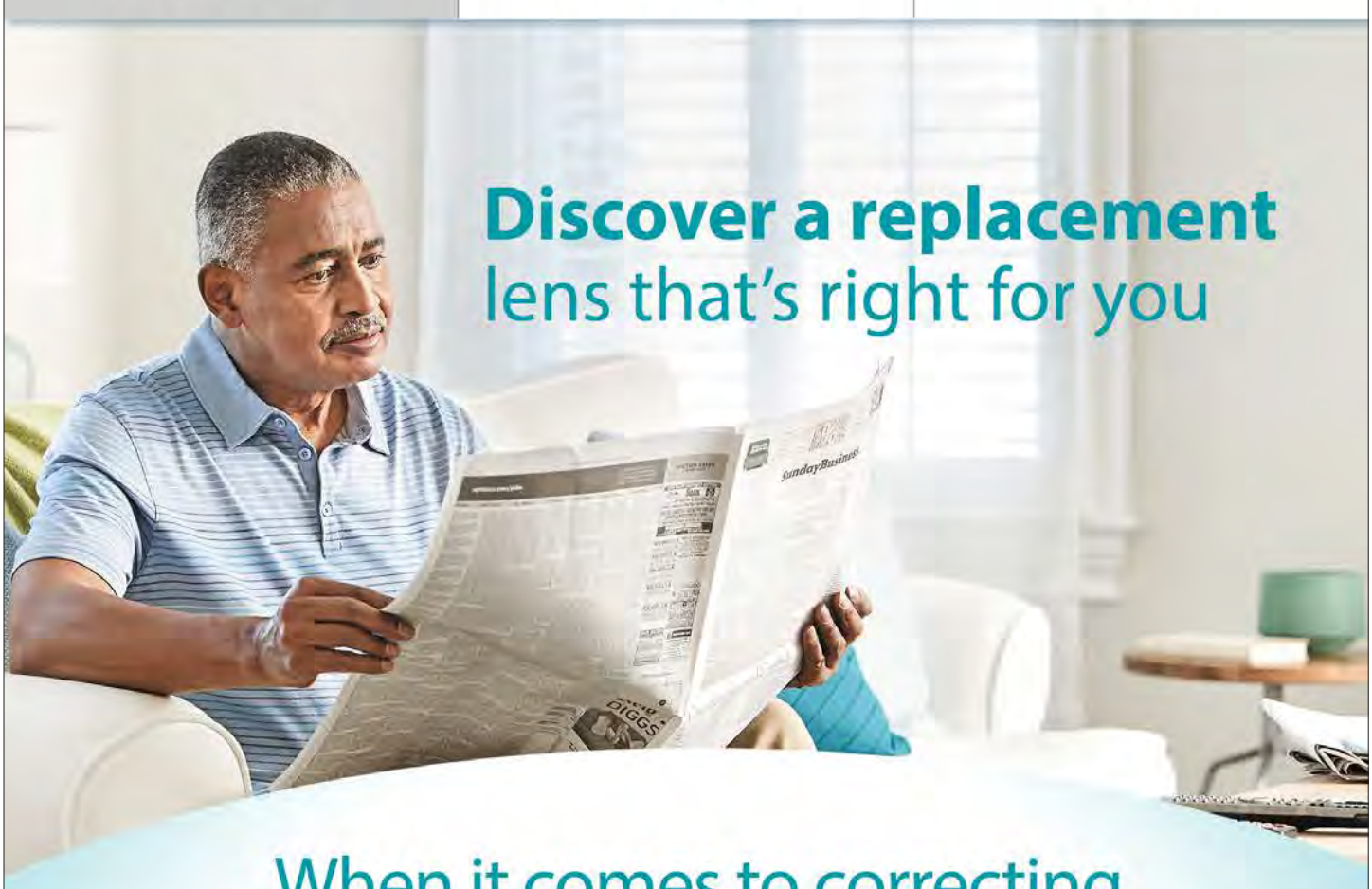
Find out more

Want clearer vision **across all distances?**

Discover a multifocal lens that can help you see clearer near, far, and in between.

Explore multifocal lens options

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Discover a replacement lens that's right for you

When it comes to correcting your cataracts, it's important to **know your eye conditions and lens options.**

Check out the profiles* below to discover how cataracts and other eye conditions could be affecting your vision, and whether a similar lens could be right for you.

*Composite profiles based on real patient testimonials.



Elizabeth*: I have worn glasses for years to see clearly at distances due to my astigmatism. But now, **things have gotten cloudy and so blurry** that not even a new prescription helps much.

Elizabeth, 67, Texas*



Louis*: I have been wearing prescription glasses to see up close for a while now. But even with them on, particularly in dim lighting, **things are cloudy and it's hard to focus** when I try to read something.

Louis, 72, California*



Melissa*: I haven't needed glasses—even readers—but **it's getting harder to see distance clearly** (even just across my backyard). Colors seem to be less bright, and everything is cloudy.

Melissa, 65, New York*

What could be causing the problem?	Cataracts + trouble seeing up close
Which lens could improve their vision?	A multifocal or presbyopia-correcting lens
What could their vision results look like?	Louis* could achieve crisper, clearer vision at far, near, and intermediate distances, and could reduce his dependency on glasses with a multifocal lens.
Could it be right for me, too?	If you have presbyopia and cataracts similar to Louis,* talk to your eye doctor about whether a multifocal lens might be right for you. Click here to find out more.

Not everyone with astigmatism and cataracts will qualify for an astigmatism-correcting lens due to pre-existing eye health or medical conditions. Make sure you talk to your doctor about your medical condition and what options may be right for you.

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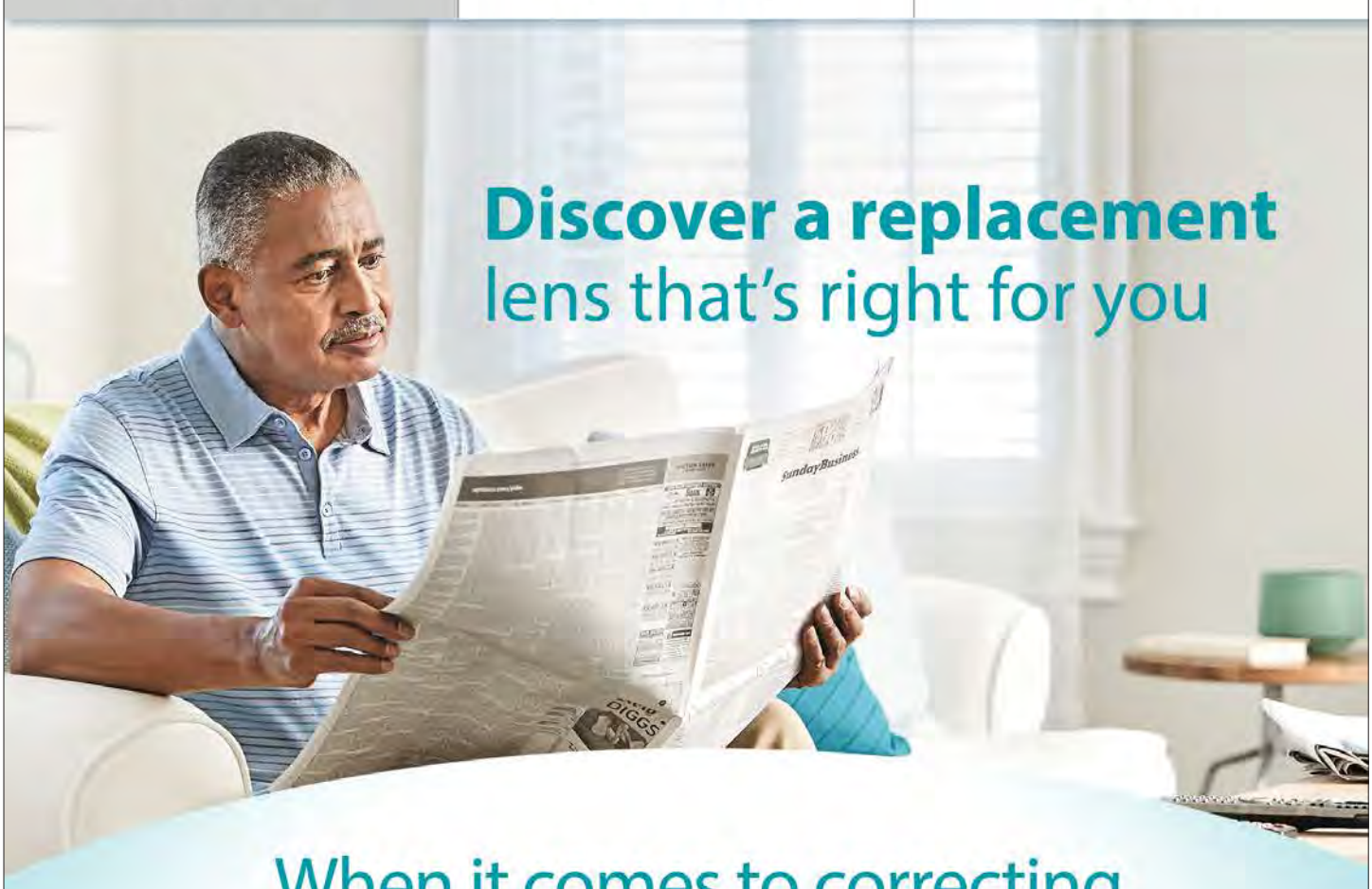
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Elizabeth, 67, Texas*



Louis*: I have been wearing prescription glasses to see up close for a while now. But even with them on, particularly in dim lighting, **things are cloudy and it's hard to focus** when I try to read something.

Louis, 72, California*



Melissa*: I haven't needed glasses—even readers—but **it's getting harder to see distance clearly** (even just across my backyard). Colors seem to be less bright, and everything is cloudy.

Melissa, 65, New York*

What could be causing the problem?	Cataracts
Which lens could improve their vision?	A monofocal lens (also known as standard lens)
What could their vision results look like?	Melissa* could see clearer by correcting her cataracts with a monofocal lens, though she may need to wear glasses or readers for some distances.
Could it be right for me, too?	If you have vision problems similar to Melissa's,* talk to your eye doctor about a standard monofocal lens. Click here to find out more.

Not everyone with astigmatism and cataracts will qualify for an astigmatism-correcting lens due to pre-existing eye health or medical conditions. Make sure you talk to your doctor about your medical condition and what options may be right for you.

Cataract surgery is considered one of the safest surgical procedures in the US. But some common risks are infection; inflammation; tearing of the posterior capsule of your lens; visual effects like seeing halos around lights, glare; leaking from the incision; secondary cataracts (cells growing on the new lens) or cystoid macular edema (swelling). Your surgeon will discuss your specific needs and risks, based on the current condition of your eyes, before your surgery is scheduled.

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Looking to say **goodbye to glasses?**

Learn more about astigmatism-correcting lens options for cataract surgery.

Find out more

Want clearer vision **across all distances?**

Discover a multifocal lens that can help you see clearer near, far, and in between.

Explore multifocal lens options

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A closer look at AcrySof® IQ lens options

Like any product, there are certain brands available that cater to specific needs. AcrySof® IQ IOLs are one replacement lens brand you can choose from.

AcrySof® IQ IOLs are the most widely used lenses in the world, with over 80 million used.

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How it works:



How it works:



How it works:

Is better vision **within your budget?**

It's important to note that, while your health insurance typically covers the cost of conventional surgery and a standard monofocal lens, some out-of-pocket expenses are associated with advanced-technology lenses, like an astigmatism-correcting lens or a multifocal lens. Make sure you ask your cataract surgeon if they offer payment plans so that you can make a one-time investment to achieve better vision.

Ready to learn more about cataract surgery?
Sign up for information, appointment reminders, and more.

Sign up today!

Need help **finding a cataract surgeon?**

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Compare your cataract surgery lens options to achieve better vision.

See what lens could work for you

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AcrySof® IQ Toric IOL Important Product Information

Caution:
Restricted by law to sale by or on the order of a physician.

Description:
The AcrySof® IQ Toric Intraocular Lenses (IOLs) are artificial lenses implanted in the eye of adult patients following cataract surgery. These lenses are designed to correct pre-existing corneal astigmatism, which is the inability of the eye to focus clearly at any distance because of different curvatures on the cornea, and provide distance vision.

Warnings/Precautions:
You may experience and need to contact your eye doctor immediately if you have any of the following symptoms while using the antibiotic eye drops prescribed by your doctor: itching, redness, watering of your eye, sensitivity to light. The safety and effectiveness of the AcrySof® IQ Toric IOL has not been established in patients with eye conditions, such as an increase in eye pressure (glaucoma) or complications of diabetes in the eye (diabetic retinopathy). As with any surgical procedure, there are risks involved. These risks may include but are not limited to infection, damage to the lining of the cornea, the retinal layer which lines the inside back wall of your eye may become separated from the tissue next to it (retinal detachment), inflammation or swelling inside or outside the eye, damage to the iris (the colored diaphragm around the pupil), an increase in eye pressure that cannot be controlled by medicine and secondary surgical procedure. A toric IOL corrects astigmatism only when it is placed in the correct position in the eye. There is a possibility that the toric IOL could be placed incorrectly or could move within the eye. This may result in less improvement or a reduction in vision because your astigmatism has not been fully corrected, or it may cause visual symptoms.

Attention:
As with any surgical procedure, there are risks involved. Prior to surgery, ask your eye doctor to provide you with an AcrySof® IQ Toric IOL Patient Information Brochure, which will inform you of the risks and benefits associated with this IOL. Discuss any questions about possible risks and benefits with your eye doctor.

AcrySof® IQ ReSTOR® IOL Important Product Information

Caution:
Restricted by law to sale by or on the order of a physician.

Description:
The AcrySof® IQ ReSTOR® Intraocular Lenses (IOLs) are artificial lenses implanted in the eye of adult patients following cataract surgery. These lenses are designed to allow for clear distance, intermediate, and near vision with the potential to be more independent of the need to use glasses for daily tasks.

Warnings/Precautions:
You may experience and need to contact your eye doctor immediately if you have any of the following symptoms while using the antibiotic eye drops prescribed by your doctor: itching, redness, watering of your eye, sensitivity to light. The safety and effectiveness of the AcrySof® IQ ReSTOR® IOL has not been established in patients with eye conditions, such as an increase in eye pressure (glaucoma) or complications of diabetes in the eye (diabetic retinopathy). As with any surgical procedure, there are risks involved. These risks may include but are not limited to infection, damage to the lining of the cornea, the retinal layer which lines the inside back wall of your eye may become separated from the tissue next to it (retinal detachment), inflammation or swelling inside or outside the eye, damage to the iris (the colored diaphragm around the pupil), an increase in eye pressure that cannot be controlled by medicine and secondary surgical procedure. With this IOL, there may be a loss of sharpness of your vision that may become worse in dim light or in foggy conditions. There is also a possibility that you may have some visual effects such as rings or circles around lights at night. You may also have trouble seeing street signs due to bright lights or glare from oncoming headlights.

Attention:
As with any surgical procedure, there are risks involved. Prior to surgery, ask your eye doctor to provide you with an AcrySof® IQ ReSTOR® IOL Patient Information Brochure, which will inform you of the risks and benefits associated with this IOL. Discuss any questions about possible risks and benefits with your eye doctor.

AcrySof® IQ IOL Important Product Information

Caution:
Federal (USA) law restricts this device to the sale by or on the order of a physician.

Indications:
The AcrySof® IQ Intraocular Lenses (IOLs) are artificial lenses implanted in the eye of adult patients following cataract surgery. These lenses are designed to allow for clear distance vision. However, you will likely still need glasses for reading and for distance vision particularly if you already have astigmatism.

Warnings/Precautions:
You may experience and need to contact your eye doctor immediately if you have any of the following symptoms while using the antibiotic eye drops prescribed by your doctor: itching, redness, watering of your eye, sensitivity to light. The safety and effectiveness of the AcrySof® IQ IOL has not been established in patients with certain eye conditions, such as an increase in eye pressure (glaucoma) or complications of diabetes in the eye (diabetic retinopathy). As with any surgical procedure, there are risks involved. These risks may include, but are not limited to, infection, damage to the ocular structures: lining (inner surface) of the cornea, damage to the iris (the colored diaphragm around the pupil), the retinal layer which lines the inside back wall of your eye may become separated from the tissue next to it (retinal detachment), inflammation or swelling inside or outside the eye, an increase in eye pressure that may not be controlled by medicine and secondary surgical procedure. There is a possibility that this IOL could be placed incorrectly or could move within the eye. This may result in less improvement or a reduction in vision, or it may cause visual symptoms.

Attention:
As with any surgical procedure, there are risks involved. Prior to surgery, discuss any questions you may have about possible risks and benefits with your eye doctor.

A closer look at **AcrySof® IQ lens options**

Like any product, there are certain brands available that cater to specific needs. AcrySof® IQ IOLs are one replacement lens brand you can choose from.

AcrySof® IQ IOLs are the most widely used lenses in the world, with over 80 million used.







How it works:

How it works:

How it works:

An astigmatism-correcting replacement lens can help you achieve clearer distance vision and reduce your need for glasses. This is because its unique shape enables light to focus on your retina, correcting your astigmatism and helping you to see clearly.

- The majority of people who chose AcrySof® IQ Toric IOLs no longer needed glasses
- Better post-op outcomes than a standard IOL
- More than 9 out of 10 people who chose AcrySof® IQ Toric IOLs achieved distance vision of 20/40 or better, meaning they could pass their driver's license test in all 50 states and read most printed material

Is better vision **within your budget?**

It's important to note that, while your health insurance typically covers the cost of conventional surgery and a standard monofocal lens, some out-of-pocket expenses are associated with advanced-technology lenses, like an astigmatism-correcting lens or a multifocal lens. Make sure you ask your cataract surgeon if they offer payment plans so that you can make a one-time investment to achieve better vision.

Ready to learn more about cataract surgery?
Sign up for information, appointment reminders, and more.

Sign up today!

Need help **finding a cataract surgeon?**

Locate one near you

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Want clearer vision **across all distances?**

Discover multifocal lenses that can help you see clearer near, far, and in between.

Explore multifocal lens options

Find the right lens **for you!**

Compare your cataract surgery lens options to achieve better vision.

See what lens could work for you

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How it works:



How it works:



How it works:

A multifocal replacement lens could be right for you if you want to achieve clearer vision across all distances and reduce your need for glasses. This is because its lens is made up of a series of focal zones, or rings, that focus incoming light to help you see clearer across multiple distances.

There are several types of multifocal lens brands available including:

AcrySof® IQ ReSTOR® +2.5 D IOLs with ACTIVEFOCUS™ optical design

- Great for people with active lifestyles
- Provides excellent distance vision and is designed to reduce dependence on glasses for near and intermediate distances

AcrySof® IQ ReSTOR® +3.0 D IOLs

- In clinical trials, greater than 95% of people had 20/40 vision, and more than 93% of people who received it would choose it again
- Reduced dependence on glasses over a range of distance including near, far, and in between
- Night driving studies showed that people were able to drive with limited impairment

Is better vision **within your budget?**

It's important to note that, while your health insurance typically covers the cost of conventional surgery and a standard monofocal lens, some out-of-pocket expenses are associated with advanced-technology lenses, like an astigmatism-correcting lens or a multifocal lens. Make sure you ask your cataract surgeon if they offer payment plans so that you can make a one-time investment to achieve better vision.

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How it works:



How it works:



How it works:

A standard monofocal replacement lens could be right for you if you want to achieve brighter and clearer vision, though you still may need glasses or contacts. This is because a standard monofocal lens replaces your natural clouded lens, but only allows you to focus at one distance.

- Clinically proven to improve your vision
- Corrects cataracts
- Night driving studies showed excellent night vision and limited distortions like halos and glare
- Clinically shown to see well in fog or glare, even at night

Is better vision **within your budget?**

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Get 2 eye conditions with 1 procedure!

Ever hear of getting **two birds with one stone?** Meet the astigmatism-correcting lens that can.

See the difference correcting cataracts and astigmatism can make

What you might see after **you correct your cataracts**

What you might see after **you correct both eye conditions**



The simulated images above are for illustration purposes only.



Reduce your need for glasses

If you've been wearing glasses for astigmatism your whole life, with one procedure, that could all change. When you have astigmatism and don't choose an astigmatism-correcting lens, you'll still have to wear glasses or contact lenses to see clearly after surgery.





Patient received modest compensation for participation in this video.

Invest in your **future vision**

Listen to others who chose an astigmatism-correcting lens and see how they are enjoying the benefits beyond what a standard lens would deliver. This once-in-a-lifetime investment could improve your vision and even save you money on glasses.

Watch more videos

Great vision starts **with a conversation**

If you're interested in an astigmatism-correcting lens, ask your cataract surgeon about your options and whether they have a payment plan available. Like all technologies, there are specific brands designed to help you see clearer after cataract surgery.

Sign up to receive a free information kit

Common risks of cataract surgery

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Explore other lens **replacement options**

See beyond the standard lens, explore lens features, and compare the benefits to find the best lens for your vision needs

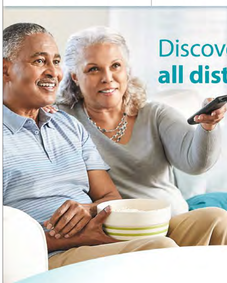
Learn more

Start planning your **cataract procedure**

Planning for your cataract surgery can help you feel confident about this new vision decision. Find out a few ways you can plan for your procedure.

Start planning today

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Discover a lens that brings **all distances into focus**

If you have trouble seeing things up close and want to ditch your reading glasses, a multifocal lens could be a good option to help you regain a full range of vision.

See the difference correcting **cataracts and presbyopia can make**

What you might see after **you correct your cataracts**



What you might see after **you correct both eye conditions**

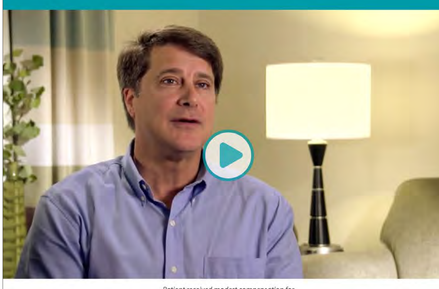


The simulated images above are for illustration purposes only.

No more fumbling **with readers?**

If you have trouble seeing up close, and find yourself frequently fumbling with your readers, it could be presbyopia; a condition that happens to nearly everyone over 40 years old. It's caused by a natural hardening of the eye's lens, and changes to the muscles surrounding the eye that makes it difficult to see things close up.

If you have presbyopia and choose a standard monofocal replacement lens, you'll likely still have difficulty reading books or using computers without your glasses after cataract surgery. However, if you and your doctor choose a multifocal lens, you may not have to wear glasses again after surgery.



Patient received modest compensation for participation in this video.

Picturing **all-distance vision**

Hear from others who are enjoying the benefits of advanced-technology lenses. By investing in a multifocal replacement lens for your cataract surgery, you could save money on buying glasses.

Watch more videos



Cathy
Cataracts

Great vision **starts with a conversation**

Talk to your doctor about whether you could be a candidate for a multifocal lens and if they have a payment plan available. Like all technologies, there are specific multifocal lens brands that let you see clearer.

Sign up to receive a **free information kit**

Sign up today!



Andy
Astigmatism

Common risks of cataract surgery

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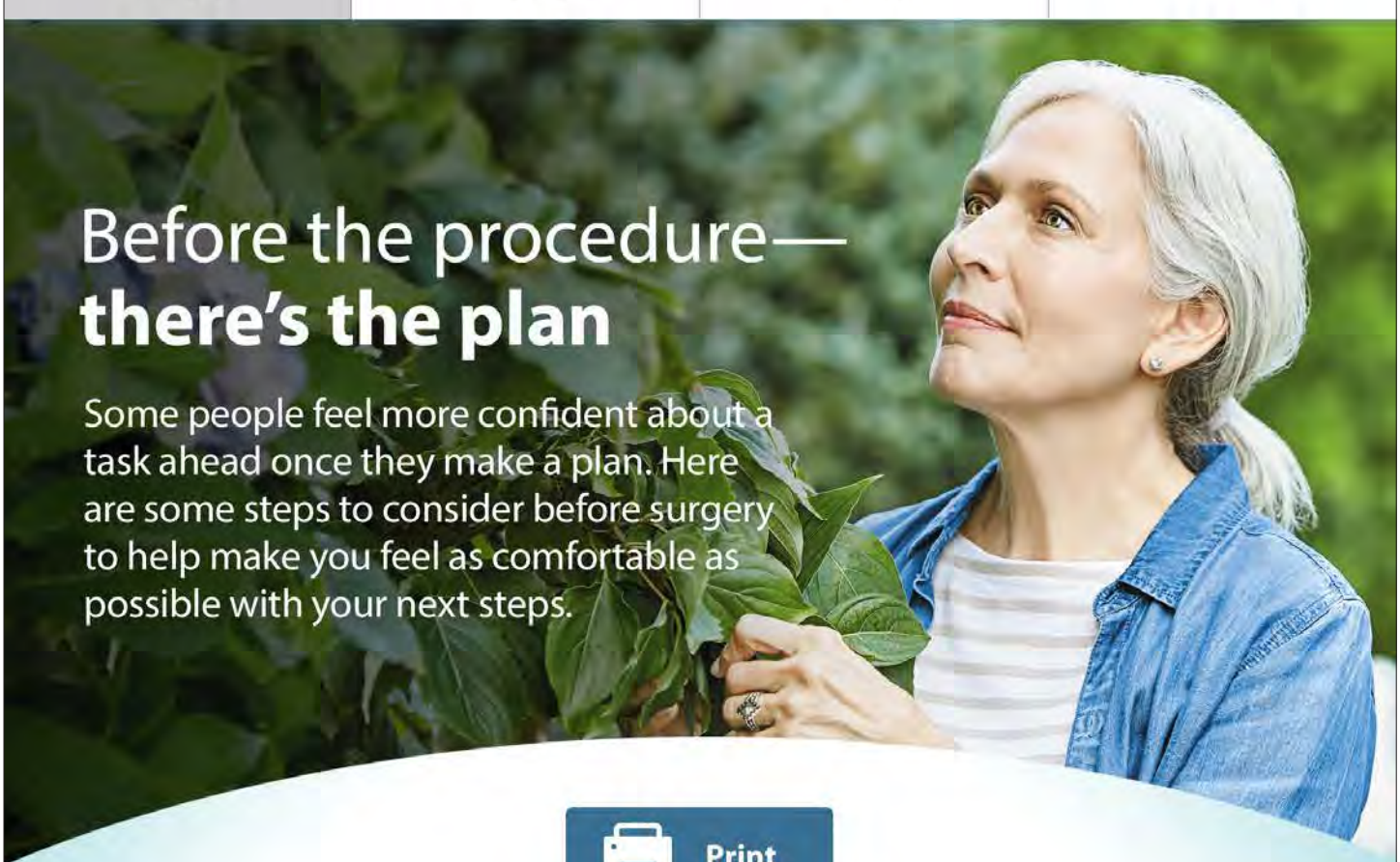
Learn more

Start planning **your procedure**

Planning for your cataract surgery can help you feel confident about your cataract correction. Discover how you can plan for your procedure.

Start now

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Before the procedure— **there's the plan**

Some people feel more confident about a task ahead once they make a plan. Here are some steps to consider before surgery to help make you feel as comfortable as possible with your next steps.

Print

Step 1: Research

If you're on this site, you're already one step ahead.

- ☐ Familiarize yourself with cataracts and other eye conditions, like astigmatism.
- ☐ Learn about other symptoms you could be experiencing as well, and when you might be ready for surgery.
- ☐ Get to know your lens replacement options, once you're comfortable with the condition and your vision needs.

Step 2: Make an appointment

- ☐ Talk to your eye doctor to get screened for cataracts, if you've not already been diagnosed.
- ☐ Ask for a consultation to discuss lens options before your procedure, once you know you're ready for surgery.
- ☐ Be sure to discuss the cost and any payment options offered by your cataract surgeon.

Remember, you don't have to decide which lens replacement you want on the spot. Take the time to understand your options.

Step 3: Schedule your cataract surgery

- ☐ Take the time to ensure you plan your surgery for when you can really focus on healing. While this procedure is minimally invasive, you'll need time to recover.
- ☐ Decide how many days you want to take off work, or have a friend or family member help you around the home. On average, people take two days off of work for their surgery.

Step 4: Prepare the night before

- ☐ Gather a list of your medications and any documents your doctor asked you to bring on the day of surgery.



Andy Astigmatism



Cathy Cataracts

Need help **finding a cataract surgeon?**

Locate one near you

Get your very own educational kit **for cataract surgery.**

Sign up today!

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Explore **how cataract surgery works**

See the step-by-step procedure and know what to expect.

Learn more

Discover **what happens after surgery**

Understand the recovery process after surgery.

What happens after surgery?

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Cataract surgery: a common procedure for results that last a lifetime



Patients received modest compensation for participation in this video.



Real patients couldn't believe how short their procedure was

Cataract surgery is generally a short, common, and safe procedure. If you start planning now you might be surprised by how soon you could be seeing more clearly.

Common risks of cataract surgery



Cataract surgery is one of the most **common procedures performed in the United States today**

The procedure usually takes around 15 minutes, with an hour to two in the surgery center for recovery, and generally follows these steps:

1) A minor incision will be made to the cornea using a handheld blade or laser
2) A small probe will break up and remove your cataracts, and a new lens will be placed in your eye
3) Generally, no stitches are required as the incision is so small
4) A bandage or patch will be placed over the eye to protect it afterward

According to an AARP telephone survey of 250 people who had cataract surgery



people say cataract surgery was easier than expected

Want more information about **planning for cataract surgery?**

Sign up today!

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Discover **what happens after surgery**

Understand the recovery process after surgery.

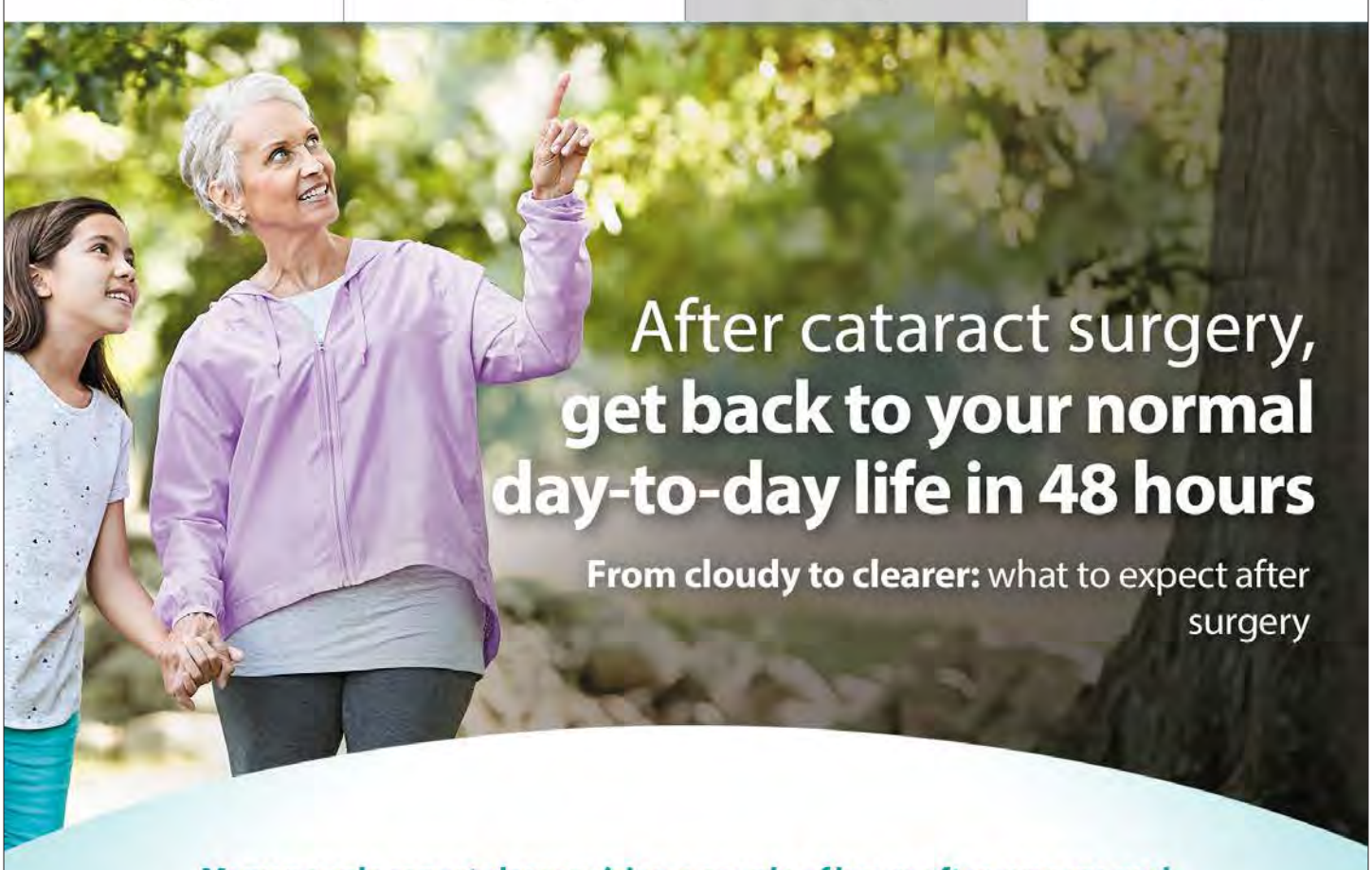
Learn more

Is a loved one **having cataract surgery?**

Take the time to plan for your loved one and yourself.

How to care for your loved ones

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After cataract surgery, get back to your normal day-to-day life in 48 hours

From cloudy to clearer: what to expect after surgery

Many people report clearer vision a couple of hours after surgery, and usually within 1-2 days, most people resume their normal activities.
However, it's recommended that you don't drive for up to 24 hours after your surgery.

After your surgery, your doctor **will usually talk to you about:**

- Any medications he or she may prescribe you
- Instructions on how to care for your eye
- Arranging a follow-up meeting the next day

What to expect after surgery

Your doctor will review with you some things to expect that are specific to your surgery, but here are some general things for afterwards to keep in mind.

What activities could be okay a few days after surgery?



The "after surgery" discussion above is for illustration purposes only. Everyone's eyes are different, and the condition of your eye has a big impact on what activities will be safe after surgery. Make sure you talk to your cataract surgeon to learn what activities are okay for you, and what complication symptoms you should look out for.

Receive tips for your **cataract surgery**

Sign up today!

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

After surgery— **mail back your glasses!**

With advanced-technology lenses, you can correct other vision conditions, and if you do, send us your glasses and we'll donate them on your behalf.

Learn more

Looking to say **goodbye to glasses?**

Learn more about astigmatism-correcting lens options for cataract surgery.

Find out more

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How to care for **a loved one after cataract surgery**

Lending a hand **to those having eye surgery**

The first thing everyone undergoing cataract surgery will need is someone to drive them to and from their appointment. They'll also need your assistance around the house because they will have limits on their activities, like bending or heavy lifting, for a period of time.



Cathy Cataracts

Common questions family members have about **cataract surgery:**

What types of things can we do to prepare?

- Take time off from work to assist at home in the early days
- Pick up eye drops and medications in advance
- Prepare a sitting area with important items easily within reach

How can we help out after the surgery?

- Act as a second set of eyes around the house
- Help apply the eye drops they'll need several times a day

How long may someone need my help after surgery?

- It could be a couple of weeks until they're able to bend, lift heavy things, or do strenuous activity

How many days should we plan to take off work to care for someone after surgery?

- It's up to you on how much time you want to take off to help a loved one; typically after 48 hours they will be back to regular activities



Andy Astigmatism

Want to know more about **caring for a loved one after cataract surgery?**

Sign up today!

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE

Get the facts **on cataracts**

Take the time to get familiar with the condition.

Learn more

Hear from people **like your loved ones!**

Listen to more cataract surgery stories and learn about their results.

Watch now

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Find a Local **Cataract Surgeon**

Search location Go

Find an eye care professional near you

26 results in this area

Sort by distance

Robert Friedman MD 0.45mi
Robert Friedman
1001 Park Ave

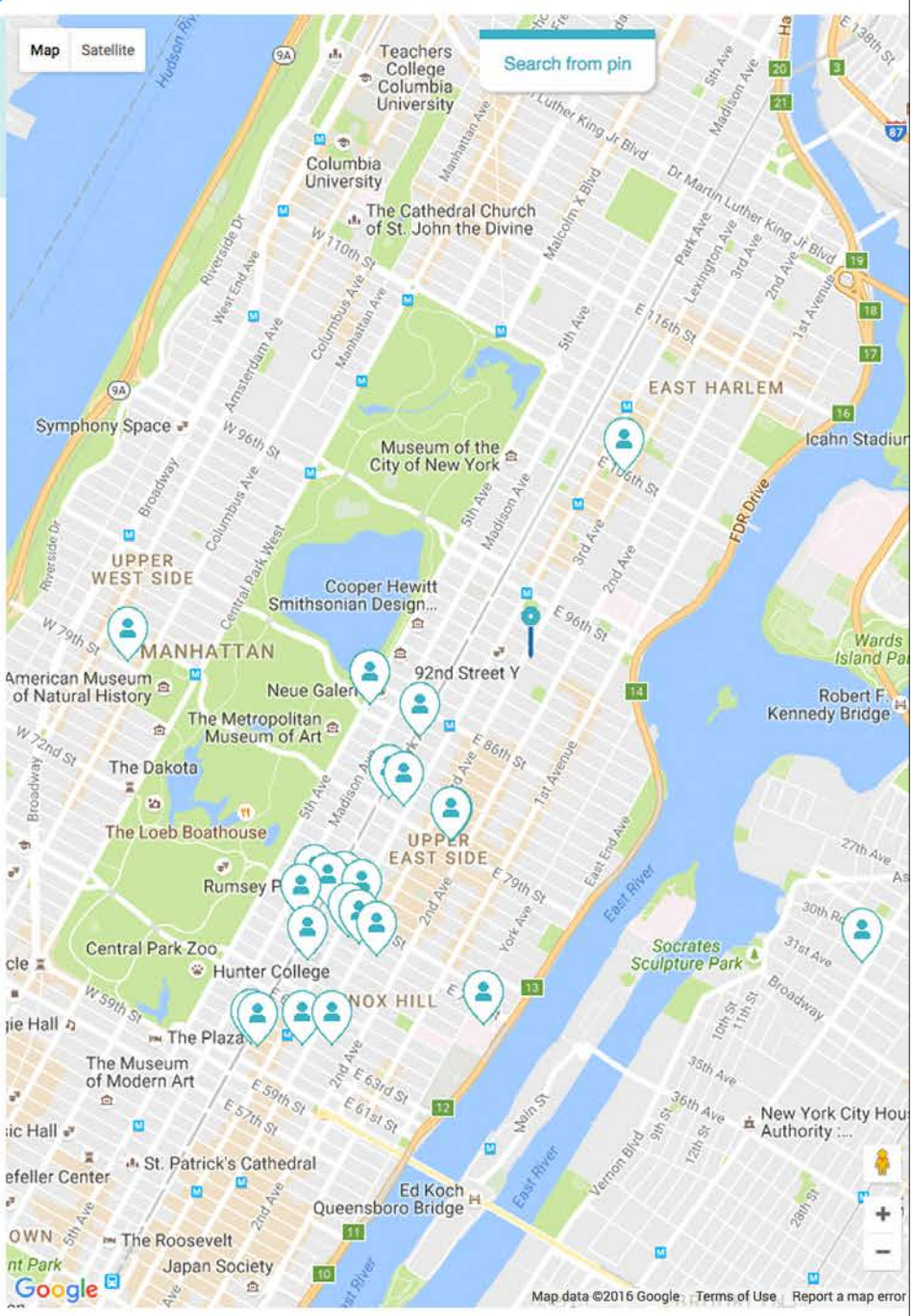
Fifth Ave Eye Assoc 0.56mi
Ebrahim Elahi
1034 5th Ave

Fifth Ave Eye Assoc 0.56mi
Andrew Schwartz
1034 5th Ave

Kenneth Wald 0.64mi
Kenneth Wald
140 E 80th St

Ming Lu 0.65mi
Ming Lu
229 E 79th St

Julius Shulman 0.66mi
Julius Shulman
229 E 79th St



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Want more **information about planning for cataract surgery?**

Sign up today!

x

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CATARACT SURGERY BENEFITS

Seeing clearer after cataract surgery

Could you say goodbye to your glasses?

CATARACT SURGERY LENS OPTIONS

Lens options overview

Astigmatism-correcting lens

Multifocal lens



CATARACT SURGERY PLANNING

Pre-surgery

During surgery

Recovery

For the family

Find a cataract surgeon

Additional resources

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Additional Resources

Looking to learn more about cataracts and other eye conditions? Refer to the list below to discover some helpful resources.

1. American Optometric Association. **Eye and vision problems: astigmatism.**
2. American Academy of Ophthalmology. **Cataract surgery.**
3. American Academy of Ophthalmology. **Halos around lights.**
4. American Academy of Ophthalmology. **Using eye makeup.**
5. American Academy of Ophthalmology. **What is presbyopia?**
6. American Optometric Association. **Cataract surgery: what are the risks of cataract surgery?**
7. American Optometric Association. **Hyperopia (farsightedness).**
8. American Optometric Association. **What is an ophthalmologist?**
9. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **Common eye disorders: cataract.**
10. Cleveland Clinic website. **Cataract and intraocular lens implantation in cataract surgery.**
11. Johns Hopkins Medicine website. **Cataracts FAQ: prognosis.**
12. Majka CP, Carlson AN. **Ophthalmic pearls: when to use multifocal intraocular lenses.** American Academy of Ophthalmology.
13. Mayo Clinic website. **Cataracts: symptoms and causes.**
14. Mayo Clinic website. **Tests and procedures: cataract surgery.**
15. National Eye Institute. **Facts about cataract.**
16. National Eye Institute. **Facts about glaucoma.**
17. National Eye Institute. **Facts about myopia.**
18. National Eye Institute. **Facts about presbyopia.**
19. National Eye Institute. **Facts about retinal detachment.**
20. National Eye Institute. **Facts about the cornea and corneal disease.**
21. National Library of Medicine. **What are proteins and what do they do?**
22. University of Michigan Kellogg Eye Center website. **Eye conditions and diseases: cataract.**

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