



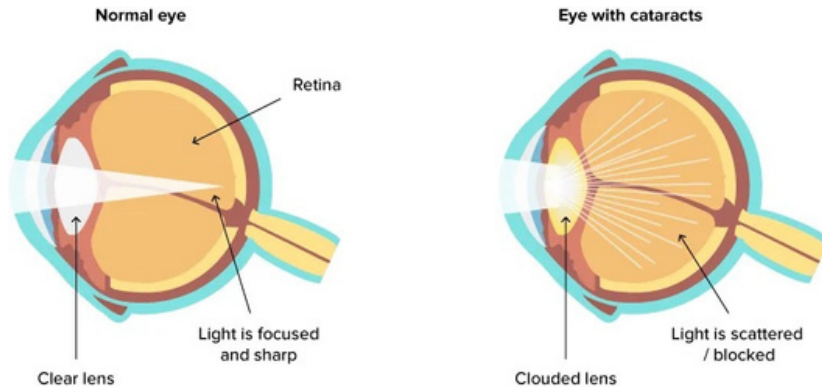
Cataract Surgery

**Topical anesthesia with a clear cornea incision.
No stitches, No eye patches**

The Eye Surgery

What is a cataract?

A cataract is a clouding of the lens of the eye. Normally, light passes through the clear lens and is focused on the retina at the back of the eye. As a result of the natural ageing process the lens can become cloudy over time, this cloudy lens is called a cataract. The cataract blocks the passage of light and can cause distorted or reduced vision.



Restoring vision

Once a cataract has formed, the most effective way to restore vision is to remove the cloudy cataract and replace it with a plastic lens implant. (Intraocular lens or IOL)

With recent advances in cataract surgery techniques and equipment, vision can be restored safer and faster, allowing patients to resume normal activities within hours following surgery. (some activities may be limited during the healing phase). Using these state of the art techniques cataract surgery has a success rate of greater than 98%.



Topical or No needle anesthesia

Previously, Cataract surgery was performed under general anesthesia requiring patients to stay in the hospital. Later advances used a local anesthesia (retrobulbar or peribulbar block) which required an anesthetic injection behind the eyeball. Although this allows patients to return home the same day and is safer than general anesthesia it is not entirely free of risk.

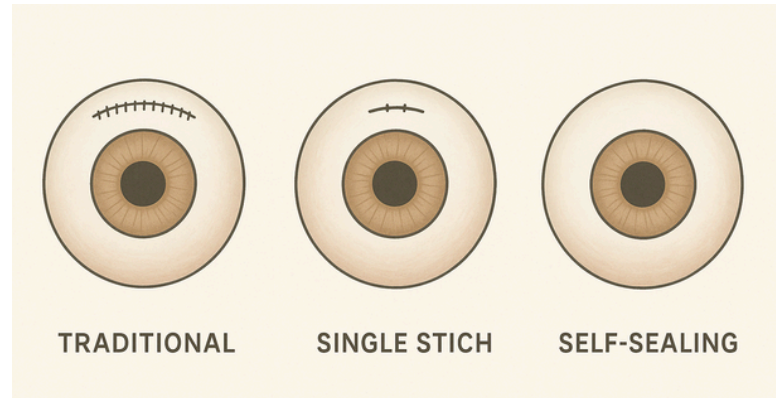
Today, with recent advances, topical anesthetics are used. A patient may be given a sedative to help them relax and keep them comfortable during surgery. Next the eye is anesthetized with eye drops instead of a needle.

Advantages of Topical Anesthesia

- Faster and more comfortable.
- No need for deep injection near eyeball
- Recovery begins immediately as the eye muscles aren't paralysed like they are with a local block.
- Eliminates potential complications such as perforation of the eye, haemorrhages or damage to the optic nerve.
- Eliminates the chance of a dangerous allergic reaction to general anaesthesia.
- Eliminates the chance of postoperative headaches caused by Traditional blocks
- No need for an eye patch following surgery

No stitch , Self Sealing incision Surgery

Ultrasound technology (phacoemulsification or “phaco”) is often used to remove a cataract. With “Phaco” the probe is inserted through a small incision - 0.2-0.3 cm. This incision is created with a specific technique for self sealing. This incision is made in the cornea (clear part of the eye) just next to the sclera (white part of the eye).

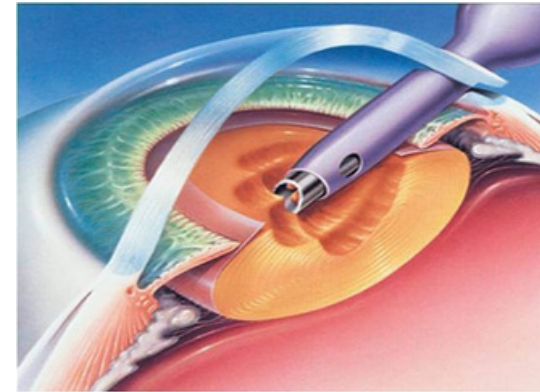


Advantages of the No stitch, Clear Corneal incision

- No Placement or removal of sutures
- May be performed under local or topical anesthesia
- Requires no patch when combined with topical anesthetics
- Bloodless incision
- Reduces post-operative restrictions
- Reduces post-op vision disturbances

How is the cataract removed?

Ultrasound is used to gently break up the cloudy lens into tiny pieces which can be removed through the tip of the “phaco” probe instead of a wide incision. An artificial lens (IOL) can then be implanted through the smaller incision.



After Surgery

Most patients are pleased to find that after topical, clear corneal cataract surgery their vision improvement begins almost immediately, and they return home within a couple of hours. Patients may find their vision better than ever; however, some may still need glasses for reading and other activities. During the initial healing stage there may be a few limitations on strenuous activities. However most people find they are able to return to a normal lifestyle immediately as well as start to do things that their previously poor vision had prevented them from before surgery.

Is Topical Anesthesia, No stitch, No patch surgery for everyone?

In most cases this approach is preferred, However for some patients due to the shape of their eye, their general health or for other reasons they may not be candidates for the new approach. In these cases traditional surgery may be preferred and they can still expect to have a successful procedure with significant vision increase.

For this reason every patient will receive a full eye exam and a consultation with one of our consultant eye surgeons so that we can determine their specific needs and potential for improved vision.

Sight Loss can be prevented

Loss of sight from cataracts is usually preventable. With modern technology, cataracts can be removed and good vision can be restored. If you are experiencing the symptoms of cataracts or any other visual problems you should obtain a full eye examination.

Capsular clouding

During surgery a clear capsule is left in place to support the lens implant. In some cases this capsule may turn cloudy in the months or years following surgery, creating what is sometimes called a secondary cataract. If this occurs it can be corrected in our clinic with a quick and painless laser procedure. There is no further surgery required.

