

# Post Cataract Surgery Examination

## Patient Information

Following cataract surgery it is important that checks are carried out to ensure that there are no complications with the healing process. If your surgery was straightforward, this post-operative examination can now be done by your Optometrist, rather than another visit to the Hospital; providing you with a convenient appointment time, closer to home.

### What will happen at the check up?

This check up should take place around four weeks after your surgery. The health of your eye will be examined carefully; you will be asked whether you feel the outcome of the surgery is as you expected and your sight will be tested to see if spectacles may be required.

Your optometrist will want to know how your vision has changed since the surgery and whether this has been gradual or a sudden change. They will want to know if your eyes have continued to be red, watery or irritable after the first few days and even after the drops have stopped being used.

### Should I expect there to be any problems?

For the majority of patients, the eye settles down without any problems. It is common for there to be some irritation for a short while after surgery and for some the eye can continue to feel slightly irritable, dry or watery; this may require simple wetting drops to be used on an ongoing basis. There are commonly 'floaters' in the vision and, sometimes, quick flashes of light or shadows may be seen that may be due to the different way light is focussed onto the retina through the new implant lens.

### Can the cataract come back?

No. However, for about 1 in 10, capsular Fibrosis or Posterior Capsular Opacification (PCO) occurs. This is when the lens implant starts to become cloudy- a patient may liken this to the original cataract coming back. When the surgeon removes a cataract, they leave a fine membrane which holds the new implant lens in place; this can thicken and cause the vision to become cloudy- it is NOT the cataract returning, this cannot happen. The laser treatment to clear this is very simple quick and painless and your optometrist will discuss this with you further should this occur.

### Can there be other complications?

There can of course be some complications that can be more serious but are much less common: For 1 in 1000 this can require further treatment and could potentially leave the eye with permanently reduced vision.

It is important therefore to watch for any of the following signs after your surgery:

- Pain or soreness, redness or discharge- this can be a sign of serious infection or inflammation.
- Blurring of the central vision that takes place fairly quickly
- Distorted vision.
- Continued shadows, floaters or cobweb effects, or repeated flashes of light.

If you are experiencing any of the symptoms above or any other symptoms you are concerned about you should tell your Optometrist during this appointment and they will advise you on what action is required.

### What happens next?

We would hope and expect that your eyes should be clear, healthy and settling well at your check up.

You may need new spectacles to give you even better vision for reading and/or distance.

If all is clear, you will be advised when your next routine eye examination should be carried out