



The Carolina Guide To CATARACT CARE

Fall 2020

Sponsored by:
Metrolina Eye Associates

A Helpful Guide For Better Cataract Outcomes

To help you make a more 'Informed Decision' about having cataract surgery, the cataract specialists of Metrolina Eye Associates are proud to co-sponsor this helpful community service guide called 'The Carolina Guide To Cataract Care.'

It is designed to help guide you through the entire cataract process:

- How to choose the right cataract surgeon?
- When to have your cataracts removed?
- Where to have your cataract surgery performed?
- Which cataract lens implant is right for you?
- Are you a candidate for Laser Cataract Surgery?
- How to understand out-of-pocket expenses?

Choosing the right technology, the right intraocular lens implant (IOL), the right surgeon and the right outpatient surgery center for your cataract procedure can dramatically affect how well you will see for the rest of your life.



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What Are Cataracts & When Should They Be Removed?

A cataract is simply the result of our body's natural aging process. As we age, the natural lens in our eyes becomes thicker and cloudy, initiating the need for reading glasses or bifocals. The progressive clouding of our eye's natural lens interferes with light being focused on the back of the eye (retina), which causes a gradual but continuous loss of vision. The only way to restore your vision is to remove your cloudy natural lens and replace it with a specially designed intraocular lens implant (IOL).



Upgrading Your Vision

Medicare and the insurance industry now allows cataract patients to upgrade your vision during surgery with 'New Technology' lens implants. These lenses correct Astigmatism and are designed to provide patients a more comprehensive range of vision - Near, Intermediate & Distance - with little or no dependent on corrective eyewear. These lenses are approved by Medicare, but they are not covered by Medicare or your insurance. So patients are responsible for any additional fees for these premium lens implants.

New Lens Implant Options

To compensate for the removal of the eye's natural lens, a synthetic lens is implanted into the eye. These specially manufactured lenses are about the size of Lincoln's head on a penny and weigh a little more than a single kernel of corn. They are manufactured and polished to the precise curvature needed to properly focus light rays on the retina in the back of your eye. Exciting advances in lens design now give cataract surgeons and patients a number of options in lens implant technology. Different lenses provide patients various ranges of vision following their cataract procedure. These Premium Intraocular Lenses (PIOL) are designed to correct Astigmatism and provide patients a much broader range of near, intermediate and distance vision than ever before. Not every patient qualifies for these lenses, so be sure to ask your surgeon for more information.



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The Benefits of Outpatient Cataract Surgery

Most cataract surgery procedures in the United States today are performed in an outpatient setting. Outpatient cataract surgery at dedicated eye surgery centers is designed to maximize patient safety, comfort and convenience. Having your cataract procedure in an outpatient surgery center is also the most affordable method of cataract surgery.

Cataract surgery is now one of the most common and successful surgical procedures performed and it only takes 10-15 minutes for the actual procedure to be performed. The good news about cataract surgery is that many patients experience vision that is actually better than what they had before they developed cataracts.

In addition to saving you out-of-pocket expenses, outpatient cataract surgery reduces the costs of health care to Medicare and the insurance industry when compared to hospital-based cataract care. Be sure to ask your surgeon whether or not your cataract surgery is being performed in a private outpatient setting or in a hospital-based ASC.



3 Main Types Of Cataract Surgery

STANDARD CATARACT SURGERY

The best option for the individual who does not mind wearing bifocals after cataract surgery.

- Improves patients distance vision.
- Does not correct Astigmatism.
- Does not restore near vision.

ASTIGMATISM MANAGEMENT CATARACT SURGERY

The best option for the individual who desires sharp distance vision without glasses.

- Reduce or eliminate your dependence of prescription glasses for distance vision.
- Cataract surgery with the reduction of higher levels of pre-existing astigmatism.
- Enhances vision at night and in low light conditions.
- Does not correct near vision.

LIFESTYLE LENS PREMIUM CATARACT SURGERY

The best option for the individual who wants a broader, less-restricted range of vision with little or no dependence on prescription eyewear.

- Provides an expanded range of vision: near, intermediate and distance vision.
- Corrects Astigmatism and targets freedom from bifocals after surgery.
- Includes LASIK enhancement procedure if necessary.



**Schedule Your Comprehensive
Cataract Evaluation Today!
CALL 704-209-5455**

2nd Opinions at Metrolina Eye Associates



If you've been diagnosed with a cataract but still have questions, you are entitled to a 2nd opinion. Second opinion cataract evaluations are covered by your insurance provider and will let you feel confident in your choice to move forward with cataract surgery. These comprehensive evaluations and diagnostics will help determine the right solution to provide you with the best possible results. This now includes determining if the health of your eyes makes you eligible for Laser Cataract Surgery and New Technology Lens Implants.



Out-of-Pocket Costs For Laser Cataract Surgery

Laser cataract surgery is fully approved by Medicare and most insurance providers. However, it is not covered by Medicare or the insurance industry. That means patients undergoing laser cataract surgery will experience an out-of-pocket expense for this added technology. You have the right to discuss any additional fees regarding your cataract procedure.

The Dawning of Laser Cataract Surgery

One of the most dramatic breakthroughs in cataract care in the past decade is the introduction of laser cataract surgery, a Medicare-approved procedure that is unsurpassed in precision, accuracy and safety in multiple areas of the cataract surgery process. Laser cataract surgery offers surgeons automated laser precision in performing the three most critical components of cataract surgery, which helps surgeons achieve more consistent and optimal cataract outcomes. Laser cataract surgery is also helping reduce patient fear and anxiety about having surgery, but it is not appropriate for all patients. A thorough evaluation of your ocular system will determine if laser cataract surgery is warranted. Be sure and ask your surgeon whether or not you are an ideal candidate for laser cataract surgery.

Because the cost of laser cataract surgery varies by practice, most practices have specially-trained counselors to educate you on all aspects of cataract surgery and assure your questions about costs and benefits are completely answered. At Metrolina Eye Associates, we accomplish this through personalized patient counseling sessions and thorough eye examinations. We believe the most satisfied patient is the most educated patient, which is why we embrace technology that will improve safety and enhance your visual outcomes. We are passionate in our efforts to make laser cataract surgery affordable for all patients who qualify for this technology and spend the additional time necessary to explain fees and out-of-pocket expenses not covered by your insurance provider.

Visit us at
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to learn more