



Patient Information Sheet

Cataract Surgery

Cataract surgery is one of the most common and most successful operations today. Lens implantation allows the surgeon to customise the postoperative vision. Refractive aims are frequently achieved and should be discussed with your surgeon including the likely need for reading glasses post operatively.

Your Doctor has discussed the benefits of cataract surgery with you and indicated some of the risks. The following list of common complications is for your information, but you should remember that 99.5% of patients have a successful outcome from surgery.

Minor Problems (unlikely to affect vision)

- Cloudiness of the back layer of your cataractous lens. (This layer is normally left intact to support the implant in the correct position). Such opacity can be easily solved with a laser beam at a later date.
- Irregularity of normal round pupil.

Moderate Problems (likely to affect vision)

- Fluid swelling in the retina at the back of the eye is usually transient but rarely permanent
- There may be difficulty removing all pieces of the lens in 0.5% of cases- this is rectifiable but requires a second operation.
- Corneal swelling which causes the cornea to become cloudy. This is often transient and improves in the 2-3 days following surgery. In some patients, specifically with certain corneal conditions this may not resolve and a type of corneal graft may be required to correct the abnormality.

Very Rare Complications (serious)

- Infection which may develop after leaving the hospital.
- Excessive severe bleeding during surgery.
- A sympathetic inflammation of the un-operated eye has been reported in 1: 14000. Although rare this requires treatment.

Anaesthetic

Neurolept – local anaesthetic with sedation

This is the type of anaesthesia used for your cataract procedure. It is in addition to a local anaesthetic to the eye. A needle is put into your vein and anaesthetic medications are injected via the needle, causing a quiet and calm sensation. You will be aware of what is happening around you, but will not feel any pain.

An anaesthetist is required to give these medications to you, as they need to be carefully measured. The anaesthetist also monitors your heart rate, breathing and blood pressure during surgery.

This type of anaesthetic has many benefits; it makes it easier for you to keep still, which is important for the success of your operation.

You are 'awake' not long after your operation is finished. You have the benefit of not having the after effects that are associated with general anaesthesia. All being well, you are able to go home that same day.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ring us on 8353 6768.