



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CATARACT PATIENTS PLEASE READ:

You have been diagnosed with a cataract, and you are scheduled to be seen by a surgeon to determine if surgery is indicated. **Keep in mind this is only an evaluation, surgery will be scheduled for a later date if indicated.** During your appointment, you will undergo several tests to help your surgeon make this determination. **\*\*Please note: this type of appointment is extensive and may take up to three hours to complete.\*\*** Please take the time to thoroughly review all the information in this folder prior to your exam. After reading the enclosed information, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

During cataract surgery, your cloudy cataract lens is removed and a lens implant called an **IOL** (short for **IntraOcular Lens**) is placed inside the eye. As with any surgical procedure, it is important for you to understand the lens replacement options that are available to you, so that you can be prepared to make a decision with your doctor .

The following is some general information about lens options for cataract surgery:

**Standard Monofocal Lens:** Monofocal lenses provide clear vision for a single distance and are usually chosen to make your distance vision clear. With a monofocal lens implant, even if you do not currently need to wear glasses for near vision activities, it is likely that you will need to wear glasses for near and intermediate vision tasks after surgery, such as reading the newspaper, doing crossword puzzles, dialing a phone, or working at a computer. Surgery with a monofocal IOL implant is covered by Medicare and most commercial insurance plans excluding standard out of pocket expenses such as your deductible, co-pays, and/or co-insurance.

**Toric Lens:** The Toric lens has been specifically designed to address lens replacement for those patients with significant **astigmatism**. Astigmatism is irregularity in the shape of the cornea (the clear window at the front of the eye). This causes blurred or distorted vision. A standard monofocal lens implant does not correct a patient's astigmatism. Thus, in the past, patients with a cataract and astigmatism needed glasses or contacts following surgery to correct their astigmatism and sharpen their vision. The Toric lens

makes it possible to reduce astigmatism and significantly improve the quality of your vision following surgery. Keep in mind, glasses will still be needed for best-corrected vision for distance and near vision. Medicare and commercial insurance plans will cover the surgery with standard implant lens fees, but there is an additional out-of-pocket expense above your standard deductibles, co-pays, and/or co-insurance *if you choose the Toric lens*.

**Monovision:** Monovision means that one eye will be primarily used for distance vision and the other eye will be primarily used for near vision. The best candidate for monovision is someone who is naturally nearsighted and has either enjoyed the freedom of taking off their glasses to read, or has tried monovision with contact lenses. Although monovision sets one eye for distance and one eye for near, you do not have to make a conscious decision on which eye to use. Your brain knows which image to pay attention to and which image to ignore, depending on the location or distance of the object. The main advantage of monovision is to minimize your dependency on glasses. Many patients still get a pair of glasses to fully correct both eyes for special distance tasks, such as driving in unfamiliar areas or when it's dark and rainy.

**Multifocal Lens:** Multifocal lenses are designed to restore vision at near, far, and everything in between. It is designed to minimize the need for glasses for most activities such as reading, cooking, driving, watching television, or computer work. There are several types and brands of multifocal lenses. Fry Eye Associates is currently implanting this lens in a few select cases. This lens gives improved near and intermediate distance vision, but comes at the expense of overall lower quality vision; therefore, we look at many different factors to ensure you are a good candidate. During your visit, please let our staff or physician know if this lens is of interest for you. We may or may not recommend this lens for you after a thorough evaluation. Medicare and most commercial insurance plans will cover the surgery with standard implant lens fees, but there is an additional out-of-pocket expense above your standard deductibles, co-pays, and/or co-insurance *if you choose the multifocal option*.

No procedure or implant is perfect. You should discuss the potential benefits, risks, limitations, and alternatives with your surgeon to determine what option is best for you. Not everyone is a candidate for the advanced multifocal or Toric lenses. Your surgeon will determine if either of these lenses could work for you. Please ask for more information during your visit.

Sincerely,  
*Fry Eye Associates, P.A.*

κΟ 12/09