

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CATARACT EVALUATION PATIENTS

Welcome to Fry Eye Associates! We look forward to visiting with you at your appointment. Our records indicate that you are scheduled with one of our surgeons to determine if cataract surgery would be beneficial to you. **Keep in mind, this appointment is only an evaluation; surgery will be scheduled for a later date, if indicated.** (Please bring your personal calendar to your appointment to assist with scheduling your surgery, if recommended.) During your evaluation appointment, you will undergo comprehensive testing to help your surgeon make a determination for surgery. **This type of appointment is extensive and may take up to three hours to complete.**

Recent advancements in technology in cataract surgery have opened up new options for surgical patients, and our goal is to give you the information and time needed to make the choice that best fits your lifestyle. Prior to your appointment at Fry Eye Associates, please take a moment to thoroughly review all of the enclosed information. After reading this material, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office. Let's begin with a few definitions:

A *cataract* is a cloudy lens, or a clouding of the natural lens with which you were born. Just as a cloudy window blocks light from passing through the glass, a cloudy lens blocks light that needs to enter your eye, thus causing blurry vision. Cataract surgery is indicated when vision worsens to the point where, even with glasses or contact lenses, you notice difficulty with activities of daily living such as reading or driving.

During cataract surgery, your cloudy lens will be removed and an artificial lens implant, called an *intraocular lens (IOL)*, will be placed inside your eye. Replacing the cloudy lens with a clear implant allows the eye to regain its potential for vision. At Fry Eye Associates, we feel it's important for you to understand the lens replacement options that are available to you. These options are:

Monofocal Lens: Patients who simply want to see better but do not mind wearing glasses or contact lenses are best served by having basic cataract surgery. With basic cataract surgery, we implant a traditional monofocal lens with powers typically calculated to help you see clearly at a distance. This is the option that most of our patients choose. Basic cataract surgery uses the tried-and-true technology of traditional monofocal IOLs that has been developed with great success for over 50 years.

After cataract surgery with a monofocal lens implant, nearly all patients require reading glasses and/or bifocals to achieve their best vision. Understand that although an effort is made to lessen dependence on glasses even with basic surgery, *there is no guarantee to eliminate glasses, especially for reading.*

Basic cataract surgery is the least expensive option for our cataract patients, yet we find that these patients enjoy an excellent quality of vision after surgery. Surgery with a monofocal 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: In order to understand custom astigmatic surgery with a toric lens implant, it is important to have a good understanding about *astigmatism*. Astigmatism is an irregularity in the shape of the cornea (the clear window at the front of the eye). An eye without astigmatism has focusing elements that are essentially spherical, like a basketball. An eye with astigmatism has a shape more like the surface of a football or an egg; this distortion of the cornea causes images at all distances to be blurry.

If astigmatism is not corrected at the time of surgery, even patients with clear implants will have blurred vision. Glasses or contact lenses would then be required to correct the residual astigmatism and sharpen vision. For those patients who desire a reduced dependency from glasses, custom astigmatic surgery with implantation of an astigmatism-correcting toric lens is the best option to keep in mind. Your doctor will tell you if you would benefit from a toric lens implant.

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Correction of astigmatism with a toric lens implant is considered by Medicare and private insurance carriers to be a cosmetic or luxury device. Therefore, the toric lens upgrade is not covered by insurance, and there is an out-of-pocket expense* for this option, above and beyond your deductible, co-pay and/or co-insurance.

- Physician Fee (additional testing/evaluation and lens selection): \$400.00 per eye
- Facility Fee (lens): \$450.00 per eye

Extended Depth of Focus Lens: For patients with active lifestyles who desire less dependence on glasses and contact lenses, we can achieve these goals with custom cataract surgery using advanced technology implants such as the Symphony lens. The Symphony lens is designed to provide a continuous range of high-quality vision – from intermediate distances to far-off and points in between – and may minimize the need for glasses for most activities such as driving, watching television, or computer work.

Although the Symphony lens may represent your best option for reducing your dependence on glasses or contact lenses, *it is impossible to guarantee that you will be able to completely eliminate your need for glasses.* Reading glasses, for instance, will always magnify near objects, thus making them easier to see even with the Symphony lens in place.

Because Medicare and commercial insurance plans consider the Symphony lens to represent a luxury technology that is not absolutely necessary, there is an out-of-pocket expense* for the lens and additional testing, above your standard deductibles, co-pays, and/or co-insurance.

- Physician Fee (additional testing/evaluation and lens selection): \$1,100.00 per eye
- Facility Fee (lens): \$900.00 per eye

Weaknesses inherent in all extended depth of focus lens designs include aberrations that can cause glare and halos, especially at night around oncoming headlights. You may also experience a loss of sharpness, which may become worse under poor visibility conditions such as dim light or fog. Therefore, we do not recommend this type of lens implant for all patients. Your doctor will tell you if you are a candidate for an extended depth of focus (Symphony) lens implant.

Monovision: The best candidate for monovision is someone who has already tried and enjoyed monovision with contact lenses. Custom monovision surgery is a vision correction option in which a monofocal or a toric lens is selected for each eye, but the vision goal for each eye is different: the lens for your dominant eye would be calculated to see images at a distance clearly and the lens for your non-dominant eye would be calculated to see images at near clearly. 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 acquire 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.

Before undergoing cataract surgery, it's important to ask, "What lens replacement option best fits my vision and lifestyle needs?" Your eyes are unique – treating them should be too. No procedure or implant is perfect, and not everyone is a candidate for alternative-technology lens implants. You should discuss the potential benefits, risks, limitations, and alternatives with your surgeon to determine which option is best for you. Please ask for more information during your visit. We're here to assist you in any way we can.

**Payment must be received at least one week prior to surgery and may be made with cash or personal check; we also accept all major credit cards and Care Credit, an independent financing company providing affordable financing options for health care needs. Our staff can provide you a brochure with details and terms.*

One of the foundational principles at Fry Eye Associates is the continual improvement of cataract surgery outcomes. Recent data indicates that we can make significant strides with refractive accuracy by improving the health of your cornea prior to your evaluation, measurements and surgery. This is particularly important for patients who are candidates for intraocular lenses that correct astigmatism and/or reduce your dependence on glasses after surgery. To assist us in this, we ask that you follow the Tear Film Stability Instructions below for approximately two weeks before your cataract evaluation. Please call us at (620) 275-7248 if you have any questions about these instructions.

Tear Film Stability Instructions

1. Instill an artificial tear to both eyes **four** times daily – when you wake up, at lunch, dinner and bedtime. *Artificial tears lubricate dry eyes and help maintain moisture on the outer surface of your eyes.*
2. Apply a hot washcloth to your closed eyes for 3-5 minutes **two** times daily – morning and evening. *This helps melt the thick oil that might be blocking your eyelid's oil glands, called meibomian glands. Meibomian glands secrete oil that covers and protects the surface of your eye.*