



Should I have cataract surgery?

Patient Information Sheet

NHS Stockport and Stockport Optometrists

Whether you decide to have cataract surgery will depend on many things. Just because you have a cataract doesn't mean you should have it removed immediately. And these days, we don't need to wait till a cataract is 'ripe' (well developed).

Your decision will probably depend on how much the cataract is affecting your daily life. So please read the following four questions because they will help you decide whether cataract surgery is right for you:

1. How well can you see?

Generally, if you can see quite well, it's probably best not to have surgery yet. All cataract surgery carries a small risk, so it's better to wait until you really need it.

If you can answer 'yes' to most of the following points, then you may benefit from having surgery soon:

- Do you find it difficult to move around easily and safely, such as when crossing the road, using the stairs or getting on and off public transport?
- Does the glare from sunlight or car headlights bother you a lot?
- Are you finding it difficult to do everyday tasks, like cooking, dressing and housework?
- Does your eyesight prevent you doing your hobbies or sports, or things like watching TV and reading?
- Are you starting to find it difficult to cope with things like recognising people and handling money?

2. Can you see well enough to drive?

Generally, the chance of your eyesight being improved by surgery is slightly lower if you can already see well enough to drive safely.

3. What does your optometrist think?

Ask your optometrist for their advice. They can tell you about the risks of surgery and help you decide whether you want to have it.

4. How quickly will your cataract worsen?

We can't say how quickly your cataract will develop and get worse. But even if your cataract is bad, this won't usually affect the result of the surgery.

If you decide to have surgery

If you decide to go ahead with surgery, you will need to first make an appointment to see your optometrist for an eye examination. They will also assess you to find out whether you are suitable for surgery. Eye drops will be put into your eyes, so we advise that you arrange for someone to take you home afterwards.

A free interpreting service is available if you need help with this information. Please telephone Stockport English Language Service on 0161-477 9000
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