

## **I want cataract surgery – what now?**

Your optometrist will give you an eye examination and assess whether you are suitable for surgery. Unless you have chosen to pay for private treatment, your optometrist will offer you a choice of where to have treatment. Currently, you can choose Stepping Hill, Macclesfield General, The Regency in Macclesfield or Withington, without giving reasons for your choice.

If you need to contact your chosen hospital, the contact numbers are listed below. You should hear from them within 4 weeks.

Stepping Hill	0161 419 4010
Macclesfield General	01625 663 333
Regency (Macclesfield)	01625 501150
Withington	0161 217 3299

You will be offered an appointment to see the eye specialist at the place you have chosen. They will assess whether the operation is suitable for you. If the eye specialist decides surgery can go ahead, you will be given a date for your operation.

## **What happens in a cataract operation?**

The operation takes about half an hour and is usually done under local anaesthetic – you'll be awake, but your eye will be numb so you won't feel

any pain. Most patients don't need to stay in hospital overnight.

The surgeon will remove the affected lens from your eye and put in a plastic implant lens. This is done by making a small cut in the cornea – the front window of your eye, which normally seals itself afterwards.

## **Are there any risks?**

There are risks with any surgery, and there can be complications with cataract surgery. The risk of a complication that may seriously threaten your sight is about 3 in 1,000. However, about 950 in every 1,000 operations don't cause significant problems to the patient's vision.

## **After the surgery**

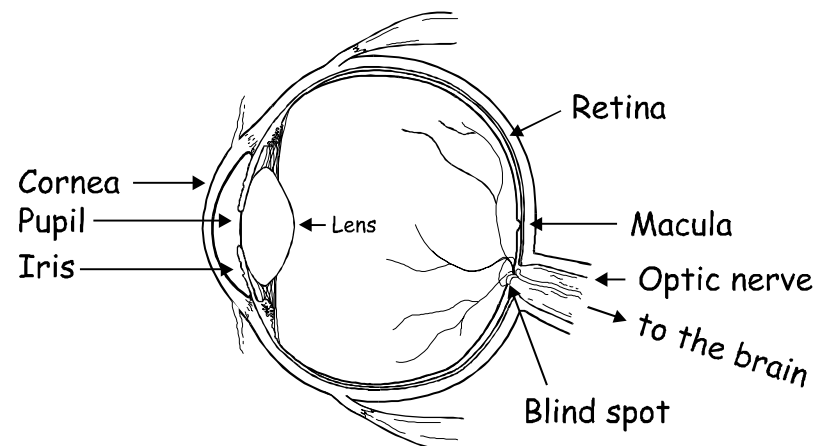
About four weeks after your operation your optometrist will assess your eyes. You will probably need to wear glasses for some tasks, possibly with a different type of lens. For example, if you used reading glasses before, you may now need varifocals, or vice versa. This is quite normal and will ensure you get the best vision possible.

During the first few years after surgery some patients develop a condition called posterior capsular thickening, which can affect their sight. If this happens, your sight will go hazy, almost like the cataract has returned, and you will need simple laser treatment to clear your vision. Your optometrist will be looking out for this and will tell you if you need this treatment.

# Cataracts

## The Referral Process (Choice)

### Patient Information Leaflet



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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