CATARACTS
Small Incision “Phaco” Surgery and Lens Implants

Normal Vision

Vision occurs when light passes through the cornea and clear lens and is focused on the retina at the back of the eye. The retina then transmits the focused image to the brain.

Vision With a Cataract

A cataract, which blocks the passage of light to the retina, is the clouding or discoloration of the lens inside the eye.

CATARACTS
A natural development of the aging process causing poor vision. It is estimated that over 60% of adults show symptoms of cataracts. With the formation of a cataract, activities like reading, gardening, golfing, or driving can be difficult. Fortunately, with new advances, vision can be restored on an outpatient basis allowing patients to return home within a few hours.

Small Incision Surgery

During phacoemulsification (“phaco”) surgery the cloudy lens material is gently broken up using high frequency sound waves. The small pieces are removed through a small opening created for the “phaco” probe (#1). The IOL is placed inside the remaining capsule (#2).

Cross Sections of a Lens

Prior to young adulthood the lens is soft, flexible and clear. At about age 45 the lens begins to harden, change color and turn cloudy, usually resulting in the need for reading glasses or bifocals. As you continue to mature the lens continues to change. Blurring and glare get worse, until stronger glasses no longer help and cataract surgery is required.

An intraocular lens implant placed next to a dime. Loops attached to the lens implant hold it securely in place.

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