



FOCUSED ON YOU



Surgery Center

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What Is a Cataract?

A cataract is a *clouding* of the naturally clear lens of your eye. This lens is inside the eye and is found right behind your iris – the colored part of your eye. Cataracts are a normal part of aging, and, if left untreated, will worsen over time with gradual loss of vision or even blindness. Cataracts are the most common cause of vision loss in people older than 40, and affect roughly 60% of people over the age of 60.



Today, cataract surgery is one of the *safest* and most commonly performed surgeries worldwide.

What Are the Signs of Cataracts and What Causes Them?

Many people are unaware that they have cataracts because the changes in their vision are so gradual. Prominent signs of cataracts include *clouded, blurred or dim vision*. Other common symptoms of cataracts can include, but are not limited to:

- Increasing difficulty seeing at night
- Sensitivity to light and glare
- Seeing “halos” around lights
- Frequent changes in your eyeglass or contact lens prescription
- Painless blurring of vision
- Double vision in one eye
- Fading or yellowing of colors

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Cataracts have many causes, but most often they're a result of aging. Additional causes of cataracts can include, but are not limited to:

- Injury or trauma to the eye
- Systemic diseases such as Diabetes
- Side effects from medications such as steroids
- Past eye surgery
- Inherited genetic disorders or other health problems (babies can be born with cataracts)
- Prolonged exposure to ultraviolet light*



** Reducing ultraviolet light exposure by wearing a wide-brim hat and sunglasses may reduce your risk for developing a cataract. Once cataracts develop the only treatment is to have the cataract surgically removed.*

Patient Options

Cataract surgery is a very successful operation. Over 10 million people have this procedure worldwide every year. Through a very small incision in the cornea, the cloudy human lens is removed and replaced with a clear artificial permanent lens implant, *which in most cases will last a lifetime.*



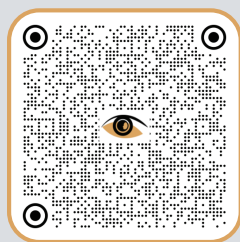
At Graystone Eye, we are committed to offering the most advanced technology available to treat cataracts. This includes the use of the femtosecond laser to perform the surgery, and premium lens implants that can reduce or eliminate dependency on glasses. These advanced technologies are intended to produce more precise surgery, faster healing times, and improved visual outcomes.

What Are the Benefits of Refractive Laser-Assisted Cataract Surgery?

Refractive Laser-Assisted Cataract Surgery is a more advanced way to perform several steps of the cataract procedure. The LensAR® laser combines advanced 3D imaging with the computer-controlled laser to more precisely create corneal incisions and the opening in the lens capsule. The laser also segments the cataract into fragments so that less ultrasound energy is needed to remove the cataract, resulting in less strain on the eye's delicate tissues, less swelling, and a quicker recovery.

Most importantly, the laser allows for a more accurate correction of astigmatism (an oval curvature of the cornea) by combining imaging completed both during and prior to the surgery to ensure the most precise alignment of astigmatism-correcting corneal incisions and toric (astigmatism-correcting) lens implants.

Since not every patient is a candidate for every option, your doctor will help guide you to the best fit for your lifestyle with the goal of achieving the best possible clarity and focus for years to come.



SCAN ME

Watch this short video to learn about the differences between traditional and laser-assisted cataract procedures.

<https://qr1.be/RZ50>



Ready to Improve Your Vision?

Choosing to have cataract surgery is the first step in improving your vision; but equally important, is selecting the best procedure that fits your lifestyle and vision needs. *Graystone offers patients undergoing cataract surgery 4 options:*

OPTION #1

Standard or “Basic” Cataract Surgery

With Basic cataract surgery our goal is simply to remove the cloudy lens and replace it with a standard clear lens implant. The laser is NOT used, and all steps are done manually with hand-held instruments/blades. *No correction for astigmatism is performed, and patients are expected to wear glasses for both far and near vision to see their best.* This option is fully covered by insurance (minus any co-pay or deductibles, or any anesthesia fees that will be billed for cataract surgery).

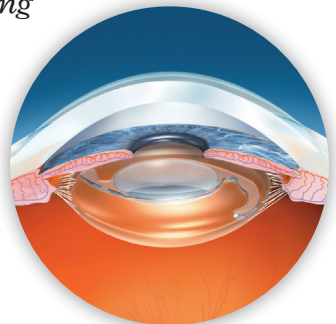


OPTION #2

RLACS-E (Refractive Laser-Assisted Cataract Surgery)

With this option the laser is used to perform several steps of the procedure, including correcting astigmatism. An enhanced monofocal lens is implanted (or a toric monofocal lens, when indicated) to provide excellent distance vision. *Our goal is to eliminate the need for glasses for far distance activities such as driving and watching television, but reading glasses will still be needed for near work.*

Insurance is billed for cataract surgery as with Option #1, but there is an additional fee of \$2,250 per eye that is the patient's responsibility. Additional Costs: Toric \$566, Extended Depth of Focus \$145 + cataract fee.



OPTION #3

RLACS-P (Refractive Laser-Assisted Cataract Surgery with Presbyopia Correcting Implant)

With this option, the laser is used, and astigmatism is corrected as with Option #2. With RLACS-P, however, a more advanced multifocal/presbyopia correcting lens implant is used to allow for clear vision at all distances without glasses (both far and near).

This option is often the best choice for those who desire to be the least dependent on glasses. Insurance is billed for cataract surgery as with Option #1, but there is an additional fee of \$3,500 per eye + cataract fee that is the patient's responsibility.

OPTION #4

Light Adjustable Lens™

With this option the cloudy lens is removed and replaced with a lens that can be postoperatively adjusted. In the weeks following surgery a series of ultraviolet light treatments are used to adjust the focus of the lens and lock in the optimal vision outcome. UV-blocking glasses are required until treatment is complete. *This is a great option for patients who value customization and the most precise visual outcome.* Insurance is billed for cataract surgery as with Option #1, but there is an additional fee of \$4,500 per eye that is the patient's responsibility.

With the RLACS-E or RLACS-P option, the additional fee covers the costs of the laser and the more advanced lens implant, as well as the extra preoperative imaging and testing that is done to ensure the most accurate result. Also included is any added follow-up care needed related to your surgery (by either your surgeon or optometrist), and any fine-tuning with laser vision correction (if necessary). The LAL option includes all of this, plus light adjustments.





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