

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 Wolverhampton Eye Infirmary, Wolverhampton Nuffield Hospital, Dudley Russells Hall, without giving reasons for your choice.

Normally the referral to the hospital is electronic and you do not need to do anything. If you need to contact your chosen hospital, the contact numbers are listed below. You should hear from them within 4 weeks.

Wolverhampton Eye Inf	01902 695800
Wolverhampton Nuffield	0800 015 5020
Russells Hall	0845 1550054

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.

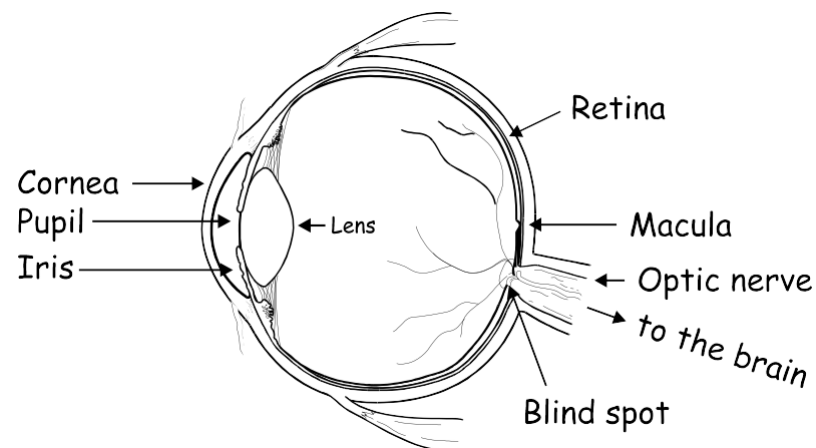
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Patient Information Leaflet



**Wolverhampton
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