What Is a Cataract and How Is It Treated?

A cataract is a common condition in which the normally clear lens of the eye becomes cloudy. Cataracts usually develop slowly over time and are a normal part of aging. Your vision with a cataract may look fuzzy, and colors might be muted. You might also notice glare and halos while driving. Patients often ask when they should have cataract surgery, and we advise them that treatment is needed only when the effects of the cataract interfere with daily activities.

In cataract surgery, the cataract is removed and replaced with an intraocular lens implant. New technology is providing patients with more options. A new laser system allows the surgeon to use a laser for many of the steps in cataract surgery, resulting in very high levels of precision and accuracy and often a quicker recovery period.

Cataract surgery is the most common surgical procedure in the U.S. and is considered to be an extremely successful and safe procedure.

Would you like to learn more?

Our doctors and staff can talk with you about the laser system and help you determine if it is right for you. They will also review the risks of cataract surgery.

Call us: 734.764.4190
Email us: lasercataract@umich.edu
Visit the web: www.kellogg.umich.edu/laser-cataract-surgery
A New Technology for Cataract Surgery
The Kellogg Eye Center is pleased to offer patients a new option in cataract surgery. It is the laser cataract surgery system offering exceptional precision and accuracy. Kellogg doctors will continue to offer our patients traditional cataract surgery, but also wish to offer interested patients the newest technology for removing cataracts.

Key Benefits of Laser Cataract Surgery

Precise Mapping
Before your surgery, the new cataract laser system allows your surgeon to create a 3D map of your eye, resulting in exceptionally precise measurements for each step in surgery.

Laser Precision
In the first step of cataract surgery, the laser is used to create the opening in the lens capsule that holds the cataract. The laser is able to make this opening as circular as possible, allowing for precise placement of the new lens. In addition, the laser can be used to make specialized incisions to correct astigmatism.

Gentle Approach
The laser system is also used to soften the cataract and break it into very small pieces, allowing for gentler, easier cataract removal. As with traditional cataract surgery, you will choose a replacement lens that meets your vision needs.

Options for Your Replacement Lens
After the cataract has been removed, your surgeon will replace it with a new lens, which is called an intraocular lens implant, or IOL. Your surgeon can discuss your options for a replacement lens so that you can make the best choice for your lifestyle.

Am I a Candidate for Laser Cataract Surgery?
Most cataract patients are candidates for laser cataract surgery. Your doctor will need to examine your eyes and discuss your options in more detail during your cataract evaluation exam.

What to Expect During and After Surgery
Cataract surgery takes about 30 minutes or less from start to finish. The laser portion takes just a few minutes. After surgery you will have very few restrictions. You can resume most daily activities, but you should not lift heavy objects or engage in strenuous exercise for one week.

Insurance typically covers the cost of cataract surgery, but does not cover costs associated with the laser procedure.

Learn more about laser cataract surgery at Kellogg at www.kellogg.umich.edu/laser-cataract-surgery