

Cataract Surgery at Michiana Eye Center

What is a Cataract?

A cataract is a condition that occurs when the crystalline lens of the eye loses its transparency. Light readily passes through a normally clear lens, producing a sharp image on the retina: when the lens becomes cloudy, light cannot pass through as easily and vision is impaired. Having a cataract is like trying to look through a foggy window.

- Cataracts occur most commonly among people age 55 and over.
- Twenty-three percent of those over the age of 75 are affected by cataracts.
- On a global basis, cataracts account for over one-half of all cases of impaired vision and affect over 20 million people.



Chemical changes within the protein of the lens cause clouding and yellow or brown discoloration. While chemical changes seem to be part of the natural aging process, cataracts may also be caused by injury, inherited tendencies, diseases, birth defects, poor nutrition and certain drugs.

Do I Have a Cataract?

A comprehensive eye health examination can detect cataract formation. After diagnosis, regular follow-up care is needed to assure the best possible correction for the level of impairment.

Deciding when to have a cataract removed depends on a number of factors:

- the extent of clouding
- the location of the cataract
- the extent to which normal daily activities are impaired

Today, cataract surgery can be conducted both by traditional manual extraction of a trained surgeon, or, by the utilization of high-precision lasers. Laser-assisted cataract surgery enables the surgeon to operate precisely-tuned lasers to ensure that your surgery is performed accurately, and to address your specific needs.

Laser-Assisted Cataract Surgery

Michiana Eye Center is first in the area to offer patients the new standard in cataract surgery. Using a precision, *femtosecond* laser, our doctors can provide a gentle, highly customized cataract procedure with results not achievable with traditional manual techniques.

The following steps provide an overview of what to expect during laser-assisted surgery:

1. First, the *femtosecond* laser builds a 3D map of each eye, which surgeons use to create a customized treatment plan that matches the uniqueness of each eye.
2. Then, your surgeon will use the laser to create a circular opening for accessing and removing the cataract. Clinical studies have shown that this opening is approximately 10 times more accurate when performed with precision lasers than what is achievable by hand.
3. The femtosecond laser is then used to soften and break up the hard cataract into tiny pieces, allowing for gentler, easier cataract removal.

Lens Options:

Extended-Range IOL

Intraocular lens implants (IOLs) that are designed for patients with presbyopia that want to be less dependent on their glasses for activities of their daily life.

This lens will correct vision for viewing objects near, at an intermediate distance, and far. If you'd like to continue performing everyday tasks that presbyopia has limited you in accomplishing due to the hassle of wearing glasses, this implant may be right for you.



Extended-Range Toric IOL

Intraocular lens implants that are designed for patients that want to have their astigmatism corrected so they can be less dependent on their glasses for distance vision.

If you have astigmatism before surgery and you do not choose this toric implant, you will need to wear glasses for both reading and seeing far away.



Traditional IOL

A traditional intraocular lens will help patients be able to do some distance activities without glasses, but will need to wear glasses for reading after the surgery.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. How do you know when it's time to have cataract surgery?

When your vision is making it more difficult to do your daily activities/hobbies it's time to call our office for an appointment for a comprehensive eye exam.

2. What do you need to bring with you?

When you come to the office for your appointment please bring a list of your medications, allergies, and health history. Please bring your most recent insurance cards and a photo ID.

3. What will the doctor look for?

Our doctors will do a comprehensive dilated exam to check your ocular health and your vision. Measurements for the surgery may also be done at this exam. The results of this exam along with your complaints about your vision will determine if you are ready to have cataract surgery.

4. My doctor has determined that I need surgery, what's next?

Once you and the doctor have determined it's time for cataract surgery you will meet with the surgery scheduler to schedule your surgery and will be given instructions on how to prepare for surgery and take care of yourself after surgery.

5. Where will the surgical procedure be performed?

Michiana Eye Center surgeons perform cataract surgeries at many local hospitals and surgery centers near you. To see a complete list of locations, visit www.michianaeye.com/surgical/surgery-centers.html

To schedule a cataract consultation, or for any other surgical questions that you might have, please give us a call at (574) 271-3939, or visit www.michianaeye.com