

North Florida Surgery Center

CATARACT SURGERY

What is a Cataract?

A cataract is a clouding of the lens in the eye that effects vision. Most cataracts are related to aging. Cataracts are very common in older people.

The lens normally is a clear part of the eye that helps focus light or an image on the retina.

The lens is made of mostly water and protein, but as we age, some of the protein may clump together and start to cloud the lens. This is what we call a cataract.

What are the symptoms of a cataract?

The most common symptoms of a cataract are:

- Blurry vision
- Dull and darkened colors
- Glare with headlights, lamps, or sunlight. A halo may appear around lights.
- Poor night vision.
- Double vision or multiple images in one eye.

Treatment

Surgery is the only effective treatment. Surgery involves removing the cloudy lens and replacing it with an artificial lens.

Before Surgery

A week or two before surgery, your doctor will do some tests. These tests may include measuring the curve of the cornea and the size and shape of your eye. This information helps your doctor to choose the right type of intraocular lens (IOL).

During Surgery

At the Surgery Center drops will be put into your eye to dilate the pupil. The operation usually lasts less than 20 minutes and is mostly painless with no bleeding. There are usually no sutures. A patch will be placed over your eye. You will be in recovery for about 20 minutes where you will be observed by the medical staff. You will need someone to drive you home.

After Surgery

You may have some itching and mild discomfort. Your eye may be sensitive to light or touch. You will be using eye drops. You will visit your doctor the following day to remove the patch and be given further instructions.