

# The **CONNECTICUT** Guide to **CATARACT CARE**




## A Helpful Guide For Better Cataract Outcomes

The good news is there has never been a better time to have cataract surgery than right now. To help you make a more 'informed decision' about having cataract surgery, the leading cataract specialists of Connecticut Eye Consultants have put together this helpful community service guide.

Our purpose in writing this guide is to introduce the most recent advancements in cataract care and help you better understand the 'cataract options' you have today. These include advanced cataract lenses that can help you see both near and far, as well as treat your astigmatism. Changes also include the advent of Laser Cataract Surgery and intraoperative diagnostics that allow surgeons to fine tune your result during your actual procedure.

Although approved by Medicare and the insurance industry, many of these advancements are not fully covered. We feel it is important that you understand your options and any potential out-of-pocket expenses you may incur for your cataract procedure. Choosing the right technology, the right intraocular lens implant (IOL) and the right surgeon for your cataract procedure can dramatically affect how well you will see for the rest of your life.



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## What Are Cataracts & When Should They Be Removed?

A cataract is simply a part of our body's natural aging process. As we age, the natural lens in our eyes becomes thicker and cloudy, causing the need for reading glasses or bifocals. The progressive clouding of our eyes' natural lens interferes with light passing through to the retina, which causes a gradual but continuous loss of vision. Prescription glasses and contact lenses cannot restore the lost vision. Therefore, the only way to restore your vision is to remove the aging cataract lens and replace it with a specially designed intraocular lens implant (IOL). Cataracts should be removed when they interfere with your normal daily activities.



## The Ideal Modern-Day Cataract Procedure

Modern-day cataract surgery can usually restore vision lost to cataracts and can often reduce your dependence on eyeglasses as well. Today, surgeons are mainly using eye drops for anesthesia to increase the visual recovery process. To give patients the best possible range of vision following surgery, surgeons may use one of the new premium IOLs. The excellent news about cataract surgery today is that there has never been a better time in history to be considering cataract surgery than right now. Modern-day cataract surgery is safer, more precise, and more predictable than in the past, and it will continue to improve in the future.

## ORA Technology - Refining Your Outcomes During Cataract Surgery

Cataract surgeons today now have the on-demand ability to measure outcomes, correct astigmatism and verify lens implant calculations in real time during cataract surgery. This unique diagnostic technology is called Optiwave Refractive Analysis (ORA) and is one of the most dramatic breakthroughs in intraoperative cataract care in the past two decades.



ORA intra-operative refractive technology is used to help ensure optimum surgical outcomes. Designed to work with all intraocular lenses (IOLs), the ORA system shines a low-intensity laser light that reflects off the back of the eye and is then analyzed to accurately measure multiple ocular characteristics to ensure cataract surgeons select the appropriate cataract lens.

Making real-time surgical course correction with on-demand measurements of the most critical components of cataract care enhances cataract outcomes and reduces potential post-op complications.



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to learn more.

## New Lens Implant Options

To compensate for the removal of the eye's natural lens, a synthetic lens is implanted into the eye. These specially manufactured lenses are about the size of Lincoln's head on a penny and weigh little more than a single kernel of corn. They are manufactured and polished to the precise curvature needed to properly focus light rays on the retina in the back of your eye. Exciting advances in lens design now give cataract surgeons and patients a number of options in lens implant technology and power. Different lenses provide patients various ranges of vision following their cataract procedure.

## 3 Cataract Options Designed For You

### BASIC CATARACT SURGERY

The best option for the individual who does not mind wearing glasses after cataract surgery.

- Gives good vision with the use of glasses.
- Does not treat astigmatism.

### CUSTOM CLEAR DISTANCE SURGERY

Astigmatism treatment for cataract patients who do not mind wearing reading glasses for near vision.

- Reduces or eliminate your need to wear prescription glasses for distance vision.
- Corrects both cataracts and pre-existing astigmatism.
- Enhances vision at night and in low light conditions.

### LIFESTYLE CATARACT SURGERY

Designed for patients who want to enjoy a broader, less-restricted range of vision with reduced or no dependence on prescription eye wear.

- Provides a more full range of vision: near, intermediate and distance
- Corrects astigmatism.



**Schedule Your Comprehensive  
Cataract Evaluation Today!**  
**CALL 203-791-2020**



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## All Cataract Patients Are Entitled To A Covered 2nd Opinion



If you've been diagnosed with a cataract but still have questions, you are entitled to a 2nd opinion by another ophthalmologist. Your 2nd opinion cataract evaluations are covered by your insurance provider and will let you feel confident in your choice to move forward with cataract surgery. These comprehensive evaluations and consultations will help you further determine the right solution to provide you with the greatest results. Connecticut Eye Consultants welcomes all 2nd opinion cataract evaluations and looks forward to helping you make a more informed decision on restoring your vision.

## The Benefits of Outpatient Cataract Surgery

Most cataract surgery procedures in the United States today are performed in an outpatient setting. Outpatient cataract surgery is designed to maximize patient safety, comfort, and convenience. Having your cataract procedure in an outpatient surgery center is also the most affordable method of cataract surgery. In addition to saving you out-of-pocket expenses, it is also reducing the costs of health care to Medicare and the insurance industry when compared to hospital-based cataract care. That's why outpatient cataract surgery has become the standard of care in ophthalmology.



## The Dawning of Laser Cataract Surgery

One of the most dramatic breakthroughs in cataract care in the past decade is the introduction of laser cataract surgery, a Medicare-approved procedure that is unsurpassed in precision, accuracy, and safety in multiple areas of the cataract surgery process. Unlike conventional cataract surgery performed manually by hand, laser cataract surgery offers surgeons automated laser precision in performing the three most critical components of cataract surgery. This allows surgeons to achieve more consistent and optimal cataract outcomes.