

What to expect after surgery

First evening: It is not unusual to have blurry or foggy vision, scratchiness, irritation, foreign body sensation, tearing, light sensitivity or mild discomfort. You may also experience halos, a red or pinkish hue, several floaters, flashes or "twinkling" lights after surgery. It is not unusual to experience drowsiness, dizziness or nausea. The best thing for you to do is rest for the remainder of the day. Eat lightly - don't eat a heavy meal - and drink plenty of fluids. Pain is usually mild to moderate. If you experience severe pain, a significant decrease in vision or vomiting, please call 360-779-2020- 24 hours a day. Resume your normal medications and follow the post-operative drop schedule provided. Wear the eye shield as directed.

Day 1: Vision after cataract surgery varies from person-to-person and eye-to-eye. You may see noticeable improvement or your vision may be blurry. Both can be normal. Do not be alarmed if your eye is still dilated. Your vision will continue to improve as your eye heals. You may need temporary glasses for reading. Use your post-operative drops as directed. You have been scheduled to see your surgeon for a one day post-op. He will be happy to address any of your concerns at this visit.

Weeks 1-2: Discomfort should be minimal and your vision more stable, but it may still be blurry. When you are able to see clearly and are comfortable with your new vision, you may drive and return to work. At 1-2 weeks you will return for another post-operative exam.

A refractometry test will be performed to determine how your eye is healing. If you are considering cataract surgery on your other eye, it will be evaluated at this exam. Continue with your post-operative drops as directed.

1 Month: Any discomfort should be gone and your vision relatively stable. Typically you will finish your post-operative drops 4 weeks after surgery. At this time we will perform a refractometry test to determine your final glasses prescription. The time frame for any future appointments will be determined by your surgeon.

Your Final Vision: The vast majority of our patients are extremely satisfied with their new vision. You may need glasses for reading and perhaps a minor correction for distance as well. Vision may fluctuate over the years, but usually only by a small amount as long as there are no other eye problems.

Posterior Capsule Opacification: A majority of patients will eventually develop a film behind the intraocular lens (IOL) implant following surgery which results in diminished vision: Vision may become blurred, hazy, or associated with glare and halos, especially at night. This condition, known as Posterior Capsule Opacification, is treated with a minor laser procedure called a YAG Laser Capsulotomy. If you become symptomatic, or have further questions, please discuss with your surgeon.