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Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon

Information for Patients
A GUIDE TO LENS OPTIONS

All patients undergoing cataract surgery will have their cataractous human lens removed and replaced with an artificial lens.

With modern surgery there are now a variety of lenses available which give patients a choice of refractive outcome and some may remove the need for spectacles altogether.

Not all types of lenses are suitable for everybody and this will be discussed with you by Mr Horgan.

STANDARD OR MONOFOCAL LENSES

These lenses have been used by surgeons for decades with great success. They are the best choice for patients who only need one eye operating as the lens can easily be selected to balance with the other eye. There are three alternative choices available:

1. Most patients who are emmetropic or have normal vision opt for a standard lens which will leave them with good middle distance vision, but requiring a pair of simple glasses for close work such as reading, sewing and computing.
2. Some patients who have been myopic or short sighted all their lives prefer to remain that way and opt for a lens with this result, leaving them spectacle free for near vision but requiring some glasses for distance such as driving, television and cinema etc. There is no advantage to being excessively short sighted and therefore the lens strength is calculated to about -3 dioptries.
3. Occasionally, myopic patients have experimented with contact lenses to give them monofocal vision. That is, one eye corrected for distance and the other eye for near. This can be replicated using standard intraocular lens implants and Mr Horgan will be willing to discuss this option with you. However, it is not generally considered a good choice for those who have never had the experience of monovision with contact lenses as there may be a feeling of unbalance.

MULTIFOCAL LENSES

These lenses have been used by surgeons for many years with great success. They are considered a compromise lens as they aim to give the wearer a good range of distance and near vision in good light without spectacles.

Far distance may not be quite as sharp as with a standard lens and, while general reading tasks may be very good eg, reading instructions on a packet, sometimes a pair of simple readers may be helpful in dim light conditions.

These lenses work very well for patients who require good all round vision, but are not recommended for those who do hours of fine close work or reading every day.

They are also not advisable for patients who drive a lot at night because, due to the design of the lens, there may be a distracting halo effect around bright lights.

TORIC LENSES

These lenses are only used for patients who are astigmatic. The eye is irregular in shape – more rugby ball than foot ball and results in a need for spectacles.

Toric lenses can be used to alleviate this problem and to aim to reduce spectacle requirements.

Toric lenses are a bespoke lens which will be calculated from the patient's exact measurements. They will be ordered directly from the manufacturer which may result in a short wait for cataract surgery.

Toric lenses are also available in a multifocal option, thus further reducing the need for spectacles.

We hope you find this guide useful in selecting the best lens for you.

Please contact us with any queries you may have as it is very important to Mr Horgan that you are happy after your surgery. Removing your cataracts gives you a unique opportunity to select refractive outcome.

Contact Anne (Practice Nurse) on 07900 993359 or Lorraine (Secretary) on 020 7060 9911