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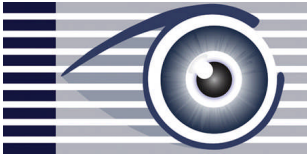
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**The following are important dates regarding your eye surgery.**

**Your pre-operative appointment in the office is \_\_\_\_\_**

**Your surgery appointment at St. Mary's Hospital is \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please arrive at the hospital two hours early at \_\_\_\_\_**



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## **What is a cataract?**

A cataract is formed when the natural lens of the eye, which is responsible for focusing light and producing sharp images, becomes cloudy and hardens; this results in a loss of visual function. Normally the onset of a cataract in one or both eyes may cause decreased night vision, impaired depth perception and increased colour distortion.

## **Who is affected?**

Cataracts are the leading cause of vision loss among adults aged 55 and older. In fact, decreased vision from cataracts affects 60% of all adults over age 60. However, cataracts can affect any age if they are a result of injury, heredity or medication.

## **What is cataract surgery?**

Cataract surgery involves removing the natural lens and replacing it with a small clear artificial lens that can transmit the light and allow vision to improve. Cataract surgery involves coming to the hospital for about three hours and spending approximately 30 minutes in the operating room. Cataract surgery is most often performed under topical or local anesthesia on an outpatient basis. The clouded lens is usually removed through a 3 mm incision and dissolved using a high-frequency ultrasound (phacoemulsification). This technique usually does not require stitches or injections using needles. In some cases a larger incision and sutures are necessary. A foldable lens is inserted after determining the correct power prescription prior to surgery.

## **How successful is cataract surgery?**

Cataract surgery has an overall success rate of 98%. One or two percent of patients may develop some mild trouble that may require further treatment. This may be further surgery or the extended use of drops. In the rare patient and in the order of 1 in 1000, a serious complication can result in permanent visual loss.

Much later, after successful cataract surgery some patients may require a routine laser procedure to remove a membrane that can grow behind the lens implant and fog vision.



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*Improving Accuracy of Cataract Surgery with*  
**IOL Master Implant Measurement**

Prior to your surgery date you will have a pre-operative appointment in our office. Please bring a list of your medications with you at that time. The purpose of this visit is to review the information you need for your surgery day and to take a measurement of your eye to determine the correct implant power that we insert at the time of surgery.

The measurement test used to determine the length of the eye is called biometry. There are two ways to do this measurement. In the first, ultrasound is used to determine the length of the eye. This has been the standard for many years and OHIP covers the cost of the procedure. More recently a newer method of measurement has been developed and the measurement of the length of the eye is performed with a laser. This technology is called the IOL Master.

The Ministry of Health has advised us that the enhanced laser technique of measurement is not a benefit covered by OHIP. The advantage of the IOL Master using laser is that it statistically predicts more accurately the correct measurement of the lens implanted at the time of surgery giving you a more predictable prescription after surgery. The actual surgery itself is the same regardless of which measurement you prefer.

To offset the cost of this technology there is a fee which we charge of \$100.00 per eye (most patients do require testing on both eyes) payable at the time of the testing procedure. You may discuss the method of payment with any member of our staff.

Whether you wish this optional test or not our office will do our best to insure the best outcome we can with your surgery.



**Yes, I would like to have the optional Laser Biometry test.**  
**The fee is \$100.00 per eye, I understand that I am responsible for payment.**

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_