

Cataract Surgery Risks and Side Effects

Common complaints after cataract surgery:

- Gritty/sandy/sticky sensation
- Eyelids feel heavy
- Dry eyes
- Teary eyes
- Loss of reading ability
- Floaters
- Shadows, halos, glare, ghosting
- Blurry vision first few days after surgery before improving
- See an arc or flickering of light or blurriness temporarily
- Everything is much brighter/whiter (1% will find new vision too bright/intense)
- Post-operative medication drops will sting or blur the vision for a few seconds
- Foreign body sensation from the incision
- Everyone, including each person's two eyes, can heal differently and can require a longer or shorter time to fully recover. One eye may be clear a few hours after surgery, while the other eye may take a few days to clear up.

These outcomes are to be expected. They can last anywhere from 1 day to several months after surgery.

Serious complications that can occur after cataract surgery:

- Damage to cornea (front of the eye)
- Damage or swelling of the retina/optic nerve (back of the eye)
- Retinal Detachment
- High intraocular pressure (Glaucoma)
- Lens fragments requiring additional surgery
- Implant complications (decentration, dislocation)
- Inflammation
- Infection

These more serious outcomes are less common, 1:100 – 1:3,000 risk. Some of these may cause permanent visual problems.

Blindness is very rare, 1: 5,000 – 10,000 risk.

Refractive outcomes (eliminating the need for glasses) OR achieving your expected.

Target outcome cannot be guaranteed.

Touch up to achieve target outcome: LASIK or PRK additional \$500/eye

Secondary Cataracts can occur months later needing YAG laser treatment.

