Cataract

Fast Facts

A cataract is a clouding of the normally clear lens of the eye. A healthy lens is made of water and proteins, and is crystal clear so light can pass through. With age or certain conditions, the proteins clump together and cloud the lens, leading to blurry, foggy or completely impaired vision.

By the Numbers

- Cataracts are the No. 1 cause of preventable blindness worldwide.
- At least 100 million eyes have a cataract causing compromised visual acuity.
- Approximately 20 million people are blind from age-related cataracts.
- 30 million people are expected to have cataracts by 2021.

Cataract Symptoms

Cataracts are a part of the normal aging of the eye. Everyone - if they live long enough - will likely get cataracts at some point in their life. They form slowly and can include:

- Clouded or blurred vision
- Poor night vision
- Light sensitivity
- Double vision

Diagnosis & Treatment

An eye doctor can diagnose a cataract during a thorough eye exam. If loss of vision interferes with day-to-day activities, lens replacement is an effective treatment for cataracts. In fact, cataract surgery is the most commonly performed surgical procedure in the world.

There are several types of cataract surgery. In all procedures, vision is restored by surgically removing the affected lens and replacing it with a manmade lens known as an intraocular lens (IOL).

Making it Clear

DURING LENS REPLACEMENT SURGERY, THE LENS WITH THE CATARACT IS REMOVED AND REPLACED WITH AN IOL TO RESTORE VISION.