

CATARACT – REFERAL

You have a cataract in one or both of your eyes. This is nothing to worry about and is a normal ageing process. It just means that the lens inside your eye, which focuses the light, is cloudy. It scatters the incoming light making your vision in that eye blurry (like looking out of frosted glass).

Spectacles can only do so much and your optometrist may not be able to improve your vision to the level you wish.

If you are motivated for surgery and your optometrist feels that your vision will benefit, you will be referred to an ophthalmologist for consideration of surgery.

When you attend the hospital you will have your vision checked and you will be seen by an ophthalmologist to decide whether surgery is appropriate for you. Not everyone referred by his or her optometrist ends up having surgery. Some people change their minds and decide to stick with their current level of vision and in others there are other issues which may make us more hesitant to operate.

You must remember that cataract surgery is a very safe procedure and the vast majority of patients are delighted with the visual outcome. It is not however completely risk free. Some patients can sadly lose vision because of the surgery. This is very rare and the chances are that you will be fine but there are no guarantees. We will go through this further when we see you.

The surgery is done as a day case (so you are in and out the same day) and under local or “eye drop” anaesthetic. You are wide-awake during the procedure but the eye is numb so you don’t have to worry about feeling anything during the operation.

When you attend the hospital you will receive further details about the procedure and all the risks will be explained to you before you sign the consent form. Think of any questions you wish to ask and we will be happy to answer them when we see you.