

COMMON QUESTIONS FOLLOWING CATARACT SURGERY

How long do I wear my eye shield?

You will be wearing your eye shield overnight following surgery. Your surgeon will remove the shield at your post operative appointment, and you will be instructed to wear your shield at bedtime or when sleeping for 7 days.

Can I wear my glasses?

Yes, you may wear your glasses with the shield, and even after it is removed.

How long will my eye be dilated?

Your pupil should return to normal size within 6-8 hours; however some patients may experience a prolonged dilation time up to 24 hours.

Do I need to sleep in a recliner after surgery?

No, you do not need to sleep in any particular position following cataract surgery, unless otherwise instructed.

How long will my vision be blurry?

You may experience blurred vision for 2-3 days, and possibly up to 1 week.

How long before the final results of my vision will be apparent?

Your vision may be quite variable for the first week. This is normal. Your vision should gradually improve during the first several weeks. You may have some unusual sensations, don't let this alarm you. Colors may seem different because your cataract altered the colors. Your final results depend on your pre-operative diagnosis and pre-existing conditions, but it can take up to 3 weeks. At your last appointment you will be checked for glasses to give you your best vision for reading and distance.

How long before I can wear eye make-up?

You should wait 7 days before wearing make-up.

How long before I can wash my hair?

You should wait at least 24 hours before washing your hair. Be careful to not get water in your eyes for approximately 4-6 weeks.

Will I have pain?

You should not experience pain following cataract surgery. Mild irritation, itching, burning, and feeling like there is an eyelash in the eye is normal. This can last for an hour, or up to 1-2 days. Tylenol is usually sufficient, but if necessary a mild pain medication can be prescribed.

How long should I wear my sunglasses?

Immediately after your surgery, you'll want to protect your eye from sunlight while your eye is dilated. After 24 hours you may want to wear them for comfort as your eye may be somewhat sensitive to bright light.

Do I need to have a ride to my post-operative appointment?

We PREFER you to have a ride since your visions may be blurry, but if it has been at least 24 hours since your anesthesia was administered, it is not required.