

Cataract surgery with Multifocal Intraocular lenses (IOLs):

If you have been diagnosed with a cataract (Cloudy lens) and require surgery, then new technology allows you to opt for a multifocal IOL, instead of the traditional Monofocal IOL.

Monofocal IOLs (currently offered in the NHS) cannot accommodate by changing focus from distance to near like a young and healthy natural lens. If you have a Monofocal lens implanted during cataract surgery, your eye will be set for either near vision or far vision.

New Multifocal lenses have made it possible to have both clear distance and near vision and majority of patients have freedom from spectacles or contact lenses, after surgery. The latest generation of trifocal intraocular lenses allow excellent levels of distance, intermediate and near vision with high levels of spectacle independence and patient satisfaction.

Complete elimination of distance prescription is required to get maximum benefit from Multifocal lenses and LASIK (laser to reshape the cornea) is beneficial to fine tune focussing after implantation in some patients.

Patients often experience symptoms associated with light scatter such as haloes or glare after surgery, especially during night driving. These symptoms are often mild and settle within 3 months after surgery, except in 1% of patients, when a second operation to exchange the Multifocal lens for a standard Monofocal lens may be necessary.

In June 2014, the Tecnis Symphony IOL (Abbot Medical Optics, Santa Ana, California, USA) received CE marking. This new IOL offers several exciting new advantages over traditional Multifocal IOLs. The Symphony uses an 'echelette'

design which produces unique pattern of light diffraction. This elongates the focusing ability of the eye and allows an extended range of vision. The Symphony also compensates for chromatic aberration between shorter blue and longer red wavelengths, which can lead to image degradation. It has been reported that correction of chromatic aberration will result in a sharper focus of light. This allows for improved depth of focus, increased retinal image quality and reduced visual disturbances (glare and haloes).

For further information, visit the links below.

http://www.zeiss.co.uk/vision-care/en_gb/products-services/spectacle-lenses/multifocal-lenses/trifocal.html

<http://www.tecnisiol.com/eu/tecnis-symfony-iol.htm>

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