

Presbyopic Lens Surgery

TERM NAME	DEFINITION
A's and K's	Also called IOL calculations. Axial length (the length of the eye from front to back) and keratometry (the steepness of the front surface of the eye); these are the measurements taken before cataract surgery that determine the best strength intraocular lens implant to use during surgery.
Accommodating IOL	An intraocular lens implant that allows for seamless vision – the ability to see far and intermediate, with some near vision. An accommodating lens can be used in cataract surgery or clear lens extraction. The natural lens is removed and is replaced with a focusing (accommodating) lens.
Bifocals	Glasses with two prescriptions in them: one in the top part of the lenses for distance vision, and one in the bottom part of the lenses for near vision (progressive bifocals have no line, and between the top and bottom of the lenses are several different prescriptions for seeing clearly at intermediate distances between near and distance, such as the computer screen or prices on grocery store shelves).
Cataract	With age, the natural lens of the eye becomes cloudy, and a cloudy lens is called a cataract; during cataract surgery, this cloudy natural lens is removed and is replaced with a clear intraocular lens implant.
Clear Lens Extraction	The surgical procedure which removes a clear, non-cataractous natural lens and replaces it with an IOL implant. This surgery is best for extremely farsighted patients. The procedure is the same as cataract surgery.
Corrected Vision	Vision while wearing glasses or contact lenses.
Distance Vision	Vision used to see off at a distance to perform tasks such as watching television or driving.
Facility Fee	The fee paid to the surgery center or hospital for the costs associated with surgery, such as equipment, medications, anesthesia, and the intraocular lens.
Glare	A vision problem caused when light entering the eye gets scattered randomly throughout the eye instead of focused; this results in the vision being overwhelmed by brightness, such as when headlights approach when driving at night.
Halos	A vision problem in which round halos appear around lights, especially at night; this is a specialized form of glare in which the light entering the eye is scattered in a circle instead of randomly.
Intraocular Lens	A small, thin, round clear disc placed in the eye during cataract surgery to replace the natural lens; these implants are available in a wide variety of strengths, and the best strength for the eye (to provide the best uncorrected vision) will be determined by taking several measurements of the eye (A's and K's) before cataract surgery.
IOL	Abbreviation for intraocular lens implant.
IOL Master	A device used to measure the eye before cataract surgery to determine the correct strength intraocular lens to place in the eye after the natural lens is removed, to provide the best possible uncorrected vision after cataract surgery.

Monofocal IOL	A lens implant designed to provide excellent uncorrected vision either at distance or at near, but not both; these are usually selected for distance vision, which requires the use of reading glasses for near vision tasks after surgery, and usually provide excellent vision without glare or halos.
Monovision	The process of using one eye for distance vision and the other eye for near vision; this can be accomplished with two different contact lenses to avoid bifocals before cataract surgery, or with two different intraocular lens implants to avoid reading glasses after cataract surgery; one downside to monovision is that depth perception is usually reduced (because normal depth perception requires both eyes working together).
Multifocal IOL	A lens implant designed to provide excellent uncorrected near vision and uncorrected distance vision after cataract surgery, to minimize reliance on reading glasses or bifocals after surgery; these lenses have a few potential side effects, such as glare and halos.
Natural Lens	The lens of the eye, which helps the eye switch between near vision and distance vision by changing its focus, like a camera lens.
Near Vision	The vision used to see up close to perform tasks such as reading or sewing; this is typically gradually lost as we age in a process called presbyopia, requiring reading glasses or bifocals.
Phakic Intraocular Lens	Also called an intraocular contact lens (ICL). Phakic intraocular lenses are placed permanently in the eye between the iris and the natural lens. Phakic IOLs are primarily used for patients with severe prescriptions where there is not enough corneal tissue to perform LASIK surgery.
Phakic IOL Surgery	Phakic intraocular lenses are artificial lens implants that are placed inside the eye while the patient's natural lens remains intact.
Presbyopia	A normal process of aging that typically occurs in the early 40s during which near vision is gradually lost, and requires either reading glasses or bifocals to see up close; the word presbyopia is Greek for 'old eyes'.
Presbyopia-correcting or Premium IOL	A grouping of IOLs and terminology used by the Medicare program, among others, to reference higher cost IOLs and new technology IOLs.
Refractive Lens Exchange (RLE) or Clear Lensectomy	The surgical procedure which removes a clear, non-cataractous lens and replaces it with various state-of-the-art IOL options. The procedure is the same as cataract surgery.
Surgeon's Fee	The fee paid to the surgeon for performing surgery.
Uncorrected Vision	Vision without wearing glasses or contact lenses.