

Cataract Surgery Information

Risks (Note that it is impossible to predict every risk and every potential problem that can occur as a result of surgery. No list of risks or complications is ever complete. The probabilities of complications noted below are estimates based on available data.)

Common risks:

- 1) *High eye pressure* - 22% - About 1 in 5 people will have high eye pressure, most of which gets better on its own.
- 2) *Drooping eyelid* - 5-10% - About 1 in 15 people will have eyelid changes after surgery.
- 3) *Increased inflammation after surgery* - The standard post-operative regimen is 3 types of eye drops for a few weeks to control inflammation. Depending on the amount of inflammation you develop, you may need more drops, a longer duration of drops, or both.

Serious side effects to be aware of, which are rarer:

- 4) *Infection* - 0.028% - This is approximately equal to the chances of a golfer hitting a hole in one.
- 5) *Bleeding* - 0.056% - This is approximately twice the risk of infection, which is still very low. You should be aware that #4 and #5 can be eye-threatening complications, so in extremely rare circumstances, you could lose your eye from this surgery.
- 6) *Need for another procedure due to damage to the eye or eye structures* - If this occurs, it will most likely involve pieces of the cataract falling to the back of the eye during surgery, which occurs about 0.5% of the time.
- 7) *Retinal detachment* - 0.76% over 6 months. This is close to risk #6 at about 1 in 200, which is approximately equal to the chances that a professional baseball player will hit a triple. Along with #6, this would likely require a retina surgery soon after your cataract surgery and is a complication that could cause you to lose your vision. It is important to note that the risk of retinal detachment is slightly increased for the rest of your life due to cataract surgery.

Others: implant displacement, double vision, anesthesia problems, development of a "secondary cataract" (**posterior capsule opacification**) weeks-years after the cataract surgery, increased haloes/ghost images, **temporal shadowing of vision**

Goals of Surgery

[] If you are near-sighted, we will try to keep you a little near-sighted after the surgery, which means that you **will definitely need glasses at least for far away distance viewing**.

[] Otherwise, we will usually target to make you see as well as possible at distance (far-sighted) after the surgery, which means **you will definitely need glasses at least for reading**, though you can lessen that need if you elect a specialty lens implant.