

Consent for Cataract Surgery

Prepared by Hopewell – Lambertville Eye Associates

Note: This is an Informed Consent for the co-management office only, the surgical group tending to your care give you a separate Informed Consent regarding your procedure.

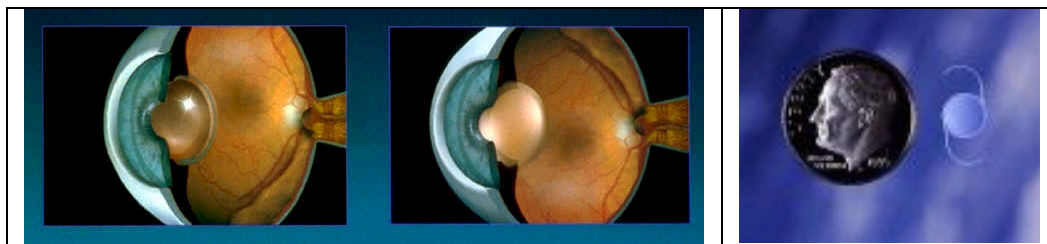
This form gives you information that will help you decide whether to have cataract surgery. You might want to discuss it with a relative or care-giver. Before you have the operation, you will be asked to sign a consent form and so it is important that you understand the leaflet before you decide to have surgery.

If you have any questions, you might want to write them down so that you can ask one of the the doctors tending to your care.

The cataract

The doctors at Hopewell –Lambertville Eye have recommended a consult for cataract surgery because the lens in your eye has become cloudy and may have made it difficult for you to see well enough to carry out your usual daily activities.

If the cataract is not removed, your vision may stay the same, or it may get worse. Waiting for a longer period of time does not make the operation more difficult, unless your eyesight is so poor that all you can see with the eye is light and dark.



The operation

The purpose of the operation is to replace the cloudy lens (cataract) with a plastic lens (implant) inside your eye. An experienced eye surgeon will carry out the operation. Supervised doctors in training also carry out some operations.

You will be awake during the operation. You will not be able to see what is happening, but you will be aware of a bright light. Just before the operation, you will be given eye drops to enlarge the pupil. After this, you will be given an anaesthetic to numb the eye, which may consist simply of eye drops or gently injecting medication into the tissue surrounding the eye.

During the operation you should keep your head still, and lie as flat as possible. The operation normally takes 15-20 minutes, but might take up to 45 minutes. A nurse will hold your hand the whole time to make sure you are all right.

The usual method we use, working with the surgeons at Princeton - Wills Eye Group, is to remove the cataract by a technique called phaco-emulsification. The surgeon makes a tiny hole in the eye, softens the lens with sound waves and removes it through a small tube. The back half of the lens capsule is left behind. An artificial lens or implant is inserted to replace the cataract. Sometimes a very small stitch is put in the eye. At the end of the operation, a pad or shield may be put over your eye to protect it.

After the operation

If you have discomfort, we suggest that you take a pain reliever non blood thinning pain reliever (ibuprofen or Tylenol) every 4-6 hours (but not aspirin - this can cause bleeding).

It's normal to feel itching, sticky eyelids and mild discomfort for a while after cataract surgery. Some fluid discharge is common. After 1-2 days most discomfort should disappear. In most cases' healing will take about six weeks after which new glasses can be prescribed by your doctor at Hopewell – Lambertville Eye.

You will be given eye drops to reduce inflammation. The hospital staff will explain how and when to use them. Please do not rub your eye! Certain symptoms could mean that you need prompt treatment. Please contact the our office or the surgeon immediately if you have either or both of the following symptoms:

- Excessive pain
- Loss of vision

Aftercare at Hopewell – Lambertville Eye

After the procedure is complete, you will be able to return home on the same day and relax following the immediate post operative instructions for medications.

Generally these medications will consist of three drops:

Antibiotic (i.e. Zymar or Vigamox) - - Steriod (Prednislone) - - Non Steriodal (Acular)

We suggest to chill the drops before instillation for comfort. These drops will be used 4 (four) times per day until the bottle is empty.

Most importantly, you will need to make an appointment to have a One (1) day follow-up (the day after the procedure) with the doctors at Hopewell – Lambertville Eye, unless the surgeon deems it necessary to see you instead.

Likelihood of better vision

After the operation you may read or watch TV almost straight away, but your vision may be blurred. The healing eye needs time to adjust so that it can focus properly with the other eye; especially if the other eye has a cataract.

More than 95 % of patients have improved eyesight following cataract surgery

Please note that if you have another condition such as diabetes, glaucoma or age related macular degeneration your quality of vision may be limited after surgery. Most patients do not achieve their full visual potential until they get their new glasses, and some may even seem to have worse vision until their glasses are prescribed.

Benefits and risks of cataract surgery

The most obvious benefits are improved colour vision and greater clarity of vision. Because lens implants are selected to compensate for existing focusing problems, most people find that their eyesight improves considerably after surgery but will need to replace their glasses. However, you should be aware that there can be complications, either during or after the operation.

Possible complications during the operation

- Tearing of the back part of the lens capsule with disturbance of the gel inside the eye that may sometimes result in reduced vision.
- Loss of all or part of the cataract into the back of the eye requiring a further operation under general anaesthetic
- Blood collection inside the eye

Possible complications after the operation

- Bruising of the eye or eyelids
- High pressure inside the eye
- Clouding of the cornea
- Incorrect strength or dislocation of the implant
- Swelling of the retina - (macular oedema)
- Detached retina which can lead to loss of sight
- Infection in the eye - endophthalmitis - which can lead to loss of sight or even the eye
- Allergy to the medication used

If these complications occur, they can in most cases be treated effectively. In a small proportion of cases, further surgery may be needed. Very rarely some complications can result in blindness.

The most common complication is called 'posterior capsular opacification'. It may come on gradually after months or years. When this happens the back part of the lens capsule, which was left in the eye to support the implant, becomes cloudy. This stops light from reaching the retina. To treat this, the eye specialist uses a laser beam to make a tiny hole in the capsule to let light pass through. This is a painless procedure which only takes a few seconds. It is done in Outpatients.

We hope this information is sufficient to help you decide whether to go ahead with surgery. Please use the space below to write down any further questions to ask the doctor or nurse when you come to the hospital for your appointment. Don't worry about asking questions. Our staff will be happy to answer them.

Your contact telephone number, if should you have any concerns either before or following your surgery:

Hopewell Eye: 609-466-0055
Lambertville Eye: 609-397-7020
After Hours: 609-213-5008

I have read and understand the above information and acknowledge this by signing below:

Patient Signature /date

Doctor's Signature /date

Witness Signature /date

**CATARACT CO – MANAGEMENT AND PRE – POST OPERATIVE CARE INSTRUCTIONS
HOPEWELL – LAMBERTVILLE EYE ASSOCIATES**

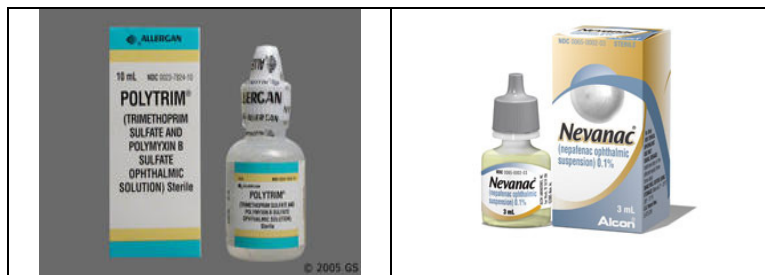
Surgery Date OD: _____ **Surgery Date OS:** _____

PRE – OPERATIVE

Implant Options Discussed:

Distance Only with Reading Glasses	Multi-focal IOL (Restor, Array)	Monovision IOL
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The patient will be instructed to start the following prescription drops 3 days prior to surgery.



POST OPERATIVE CARE

I _____ agree to have the post operative care performed by the doctors at Hopewell – Lambertville Eye Associates in conjunction with the surgeons of the Princeton Eye Group.

HEA – LEA: Dr. Daniels / M. Lee – Parma / N. Hermann X _____

Princeton Eye Group Surgeon:

Dr. S. Jadico / D. Reynolds / M. Wong / A. Miedziak / S. Lui / J. Epstein / S. Felton
X _____

You will be seen by the doctor for the following post – operative visits:

1 Day Post Operative: Right Eye:	1 Day Post Operative: Left Eye:
7 Day Post Operative: Right Eye:	7 Day Post Operative: Left Eye:
21 Day Post Operative: Right Eye:	21 Day Post Operative: Left Eye:

Protection

At the end of the operation, a shield and / or patch may be taped over the eye. If so, leave it in place except when inserting eye drops. Starting the morning after the surgery, the eye may be left uncovered during the daytime – waking hours. However, tape the shield (without gauze) over the eye when sleeping each night for the first week.

Medications

The evening after the procedure, around dinner, start using the following drops:



It is advisable to separate the drop instillation by a few minutes (1-2) and tends to be more comfortable if the drops are chilled prior to use (not required). Additionally, in order to prevent systemic absorption or an after taste, place your finger on the inner nasal area of your eyelid after the instillation of drops for 30 seconds to minute. Complete the full use of each bottle of medication unless otherwise advised by your physician.

Normal early postoperative symptoms: you may notice a dilated pupil for 1 to 2 days; eye watering and redness; off and on scratchy or sandy sensation which may last weeks but will fade away; blurry, or shimmering vision; sensitivity to bright lights; a curved shadow or light reflection off to the side; and halos at night. Since the artificial lens in your eye itself blocks UV light, sunglasses are optional for comfort, but not required for safety. CALL the office immediately if you experience severe pain or sudden loss of vision!

Activities: There are no physical restrictions following Small Incision Cataract Surgery. Do not press or rub the eye for 2 weeks after surgery. There is no problem with bending, stooping, lifting, coughing, or straining. Exercise is fine, including golf, tennis, jogging, aerobics, weight training and swimming (don't use swim goggles). Soap and water are not harmful so you may shower, wash your face and hair and wear makeup. You can read and watch TV as much as you like. You may resume work and driving when you feel ready. There is no restriction on airplane travel.

Visual Recovery: You should not expect to see well immediately. Depending on the condition of the eye and the type of cataract, it is normal for some patients to recover vision quickly and for others to recover slowly. Don't worry if early visual results seem less than perfect since they may have little bearing on the final visual outcome. You may not achieve optimal reading or distance vision until glasses are updated. It won't hurt to try your older glasses, but they may not help. Store bought reading glasses are safe and may work as a temporary measure.

<p>Hopewell Eye Associates 84 East Broad Street Hopewell, NJ 08525 609-466-0055 Page: 609-213-5008</p>	<p>Lambertville Eye Associates 16 South Franklin Street Lambertville, NJ 085430 609-397-7020 Page: 609-213-5008</p>	<p>Princeton Eye Group 419 North Harrison Street Princeton, NJ 08540 609-921-9437</p>
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