clarity eye

When a cataract is removed, the cloudy natural lens is replaced with a clear artificial lens called an intraocular lens (IOL). **The lens you choose determines how much you rely on glasses after surgery.** This guide outlines all the options available to you — from fully covered surgery to customizable premium lenses — so you can come to your appointment ready to ask the right questions.

WHAT IS A CATARACT?

A cataract is a gradual clouding of the eye's natural lens — the structure that focuses light onto the retina. As the lens becomes cloudy, vision turns blurry, colours appear faded, and glare around lights increases, particularly at night. Cataracts are a normal part of aging and cannot be corrected with glasses. The only effective treatment is surgery, in which the cloudy lens is removed and replaced with a clear artificial lens called an intraocular lens (IOL). The procedure takes approximately 15–30 minutes, is performed under local anaesthesia, and most patients notice improved vision within days.

FIRST: UNDERSTANDING VISION DISTANCES

FAR
Driving, TV, golf, recognizing faces across a room

INTERMEDIATE
Computer, dashboard, cooking, shopping

NEAR
Phone, books, medication labels, fine print

YOUR OPTIONS AT A GLANCE — FROM COVERED TO FULLY CUSTOMIZED

GLASSES EXPECTED		GLASSES REDUCED		FULLY CUSTOMIZED
OHIP Covered	Night Plan	Near Glasses	No Glasses	Light Adjustable

OPTION 1 — COVERED BY OHIP

OHIP Covered Cataract Surgery

OHIP COVERED · HOSPITAL · NO ADDITIONAL COST

Standard monofocal lens

OHIP covers cataract surgery performed in hospital using a standard monofocal lens. This lens corrects vision at one distance — typically set for far vision. You will need glasses for reading, the computer, and other close-up tasks. The surgery is safe, effective, and the most common cataract procedure in Canada.

After surgery you should expect

- Far — may need glasses
- Computer — glasses needed
- Reading — glasses needed

This is a fully valid choice. If you are comfortable continuing to wear glasses, this option provides excellent results at no cost to you.

OPTION 2 — PREMIUM LENSES · LUMEA

Reduce or eliminate your need for glasses

> Clarity Eye and Lumea are part of the same team. If you are interested in reducing your dependence on glasses, premium lens options are available through Lumea. **Premium lenses are not covered by OHIP and require an additional cost.** Your care team will discuss pricing with you during your consultation.

Night Plan

Better quality vision · Less glare

PREMIUM MONOFOCAL

An upgraded monofocal lens with advanced optics designed to reduce glare and halos at night compared to a standard OHIP lens. **This plan does not reduce your need for glasses** — you will still wear prescription glasses for distance, computer, and reading. It is ideal if you prefer the simplest outcome and want better night-time visual quality.

AFTER SURGERY

- Far — may need glasses
- Computer — glasses expected
- Reading — glasses expected

Near Glasses Plan

Clear distance · Glasses for close up

PREMIUM MONOFOCAL ± TORIC

Targeted for clear distance vision without glasses — driving, TV, golf, recognizing faces. You will still need glasses for the computer and reading. If you have astigmatism, a toric lens can correct it at the same time for sharper distance vision.

If the distance result is outside the expected range, a LASIK touch-up may be considered to fine-tune your outcome.

AFTER SURGERY

- Far — expect no glasses
- Computer — glasses needed
- Reading — glasses needed

No Glasses Plan A

Maximum range · Trifocal strategy

TRIFOCAL ± TORIC

Designed to give useful vision at far, intermediate, and near distances for most daily tasks. Often the most glasses-independent option when your eye is a good candidate.

Trade-off: more likely to cause glare or halos around lights at night. Best suited to patients who drive little at night or are comfortable accepting this.

AFTER SURGERY

- Far — expect no glasses
- Computer — expect no glasses
- Reading — expect no glasses

No Glasses Plan B

Distance + computer · Lower glare

EDOF ± TORIC

Strong far and intermediate vision — driving, TV, computer, dashboard — with less glare than a trifocal. Reading glasses may still be needed for fine print unless one eye is set slightly closer.

A good choice for frequent night drivers who still want to reduce glasses dependence.

AFTER SURGERY

- Far — expect no glasses
- Computer — expect no glasses
- Reading — may need readers

NEWEST TECHNOLOGY

Light Adjustable Lens (LAL)

THE ONLY LENS ADJUSTED AFTER SURGERY

The LAL is the only lens that can be fine-tuned *after* it is placed in your eye. Once your eye heals, controlled UV light reshapes the lens up to three times until you and your care team are satisfied with the result — then it is permanently locked in.

Studies show patients with LAL are 10x more likely to achieve the predicted visual result compared to a standard lens. 8 out of 10 ophthalmologists say they would choose LAL for their own cataract surgery.

What to expect

Fully customized

Vision is dialled in over several post-operative visits based on your real-world experience and lifestyle — night driving, computer work, reading, or sport-specific needs.

Requires: additional post-op visits, UV-protective sunglasses outdoors, and diligent drops until lock-in is complete.

The LAL is available through Lumea. Your consultant will advise if your eye is a suitable candidate at your appointment.

BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT — THREE QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

01
How important is it to reduce your dependence on glasses in daily life?

02
How much do you drive at night? Glare and halos matter more for frequent night drivers.

03
Which distance is most important to you — driving, computer work, reading, or hobbies?

This document is for educational purposes only. Your surgeon and care team will confirm which plan is appropriate for your eyes based on your prescription, eye health, and lifestyle.

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