

A cataract is a gradual clouding of the eye's natural lens that causes blurry vision, faded colours, and increased glare — particularly at night. Cataracts cannot be corrected with glasses; the only effective treatment is surgery to remove the cloudy lens and replace it with a clear artificial intraocular lens (IOL). The procedure takes approximately 15–30 minutes under local anaesthesia, and most patients notice improved vision within days. **The lens you choose determines how much you rely on glasses after surgery.** This guide explains all four lens options so you can come to your appointment informed and ready to discuss what matters most to you.

UNDERSTANDING VISION DISTANCES

FAR

Driving, TV, golf, recognizing faces across a room

INTERMEDIATE

Computer, dashboard, cooking, shopping

NEAR

Phone, books, medication labels, fine print

FOUR LENS OPTIONS — FROM STANDARD TO FULL RANGE OF VISION

GLASSES EXPECTED	DISTANCE GLASSES-FREE			FULL RANGE
Standard Monofocal	Aspheric Monofocal	Toric Lens	EDOF Lens	Trifocal Lens

THE LENS OPTIONS IN DETAIL

Standard Monofocal

OHIP covered · No additional cost

OHIP COVERED · HOSPITAL

Corrects vision at one distance — typically set for far. Safe, effective, and the most common lens used in Canada. Prescription glasses needed for reading and computer use.

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

AFTER SURGERY

Far — may need glasses

Computer — glasses needed

Reading — glasses needed

Aspheric Monofocal

Better optics · Less night glare

PREMIUM MONOFOCAL

Advanced optical design reduces night glare and halos compared to a standard lens. Corrects one distance only. **Does not reduce your need for glasses** — prescription glasses still expected for all distances.

Best for: patients comfortable wearing glasses whose main concern is optical quality and reduced night glare.

AFTER SURGERY

Far — may need glasses

Computer — glasses needed

Reading — glasses needed

Toric Lens

Corrects astigmatism · Clear distance vision

PREMIUM MONOFOCAL + ASTIGMATISM CORRECTION

A premium monofocal lens with built-in astigmatism correction. Gives sharper distance vision without glasses. Still requires glasses for computer and reading. Only indicated if significant astigmatism is present.

LASIK available as a safety net if the distance result needs fine-tuning after surgery.

AFTER SURGERY

Far — expect no glasses

Computer — glasses needed

Reading — glasses needed

EDOF Lens (Extended Range)

Distance + computer · Lower glare

RANGE OF VISION · EXTENDED DEPTH OF FOCUS

Extends the visual range to cover far and intermediate distances — driving, TV, computer, and dashboard — reducing glasses dependence for most daily activities. Reading glasses may still be needed for fine print unless one eye is set slightly closer (mini-monovision).

Trade-off: mild glare or halos possible at night, though typically less than with a trifocal. A good option for frequent night drivers who want reduced glasses dependence.

Toric version available if astigmatism is present.

AFTER SURGERY

Far — expect no glasses

Computer — expect no glasses

Reading — may need readers

Trifocal Lens (Full Range)

Far, computer and reading · Maximum independence

RANGE OF VISION · TRIFOCAL

Designed for useful vision at far, intermediate, and near distances — driving, computer, reading, and most daily tasks. The most glasses-independent option when the eye is a good candidate.

Trade-off: increased likelihood of glare or halos at night compared to monofocal and EDOF lenses. Best suited to patients who drive little at night or accept this trade-off for greater glasses freedom.

Toric version available if astigmatism is present.

AFTER SURGERY

Far — expect no glasses

Computer — expect no glasses

Reading — expect no glasses

QUICK COMPARISON

LENS	FAR	COMPUTER	READING	NIGHT GLARE
Standard Monofocal	May need glasses	Glasses needed	Glasses needed	Neutral
Aspheric Monofocal	May need glasses	Glasses needed	Glasses needed	Reduced ✓
Toric Lens	Expect no glasses ✓	Glasses needed	Glasses needed	Reduced ✓
EDOF Lens	Expect no glasses ✓	Expect no glasses ✓	May need readers	Mild
Trifocal Lens	Expect no glasses ✓	Expect no glasses ✓	Expect no glasses ✓	Higher possible

BEFORE YOUR APPOINTMENT — THREE QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

01

How important is reducing your dependence on glasses in daily life?

02

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

03

Which distance matters most — driving, computer, reading, or a mix?

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

