



Selecting the Right Intraocular Lens

When a cataract is removed, it is replaced with an artificial intraocular lens (IOL). A variety of IOLs may be used in cataract surgery. Each one has different characteristics and its own set of advantages and disadvantages. No one lens is right for everyone. The FDA approval process for IOLs is among the most rigorous in the world. Rest assured that IOLs used in the U.S. have undergone extensive testing for safety and ability to produce the desired results.

Fixed Focus Monofocal IOLs

Fixed Focus Mono-focal IOLs are most common. These lenses have the advantage of excellent quality distance vision under a variety of lighting conditions. They have a fixed focal point that is generally set for distance vision, so reading glasses are typically required for good near vision. For patients willing to use reading glasses for near tasks, these IOLs are an excellent choice. Some lenses are available with special materials that block potentially harmful blue light. If you are having cataract surgery, these lenses are usually covered with the expense of the surgery.

Multifocal and Accommodating IOLs

Multifocal IOLs use a different strategy to achieve good distance and near vision without glasses. These lenses have highly specialized optical properties that can divide light to bring it into focus at more than one point at the same time. This allows the eye to see both near and far, usually without glasses. The multifocal IOL has several zones of optical power designed to provide good vision at varying distances, under varying lighting conditions. Multifocal IOLs have a slightly greater tendency to cause glare symptoms at night than other IOLs, so those who drive a great deal at night may wish to consider a different IOL. Some patients require more light to obtain optimal near vision.

TORIC IOLs

The AcrySofToric lens is a foldable, single-piece lens that makes it possible to reduce or eliminate corneal astigmatism and significantly improve uncorrected vision. AcrySofToric lens provides QUALITY vision, independent of eyeglasses and contact lenses. When the Toric IOL is used for mono-vision, patients can decrease their dependency on both distance and near spectacles after surgery.

The accommodating mono-focal, multifocal, and TORIC IOLs are new technology lenses and require additional measurements and preoperative counseling. The cost of these services and the cost of the lens are not covered by insurance. Dr. Stewart will help you decide which lens is best for you and your lifestyle.