



## Cataract Consultation

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# Welcome to Horizon Eye Care!

You have been referred for a cataract consultation with one of our board-certified ophthalmologists.

Your initial consultation will take approximately three hours. Our physicians and technicians will perform a variety of diagnostic tests to gather the specific data needed for your evaluation.

## **Special instructions for contact lens wearers:**

Soft lens wearers need to discontinue lens wear at least 7 consecutive days prior and up to your appointment date. Hard or rigid lens wearers need to discontinue lens wear at least 14 consecutive days prior and up to your appointment date.

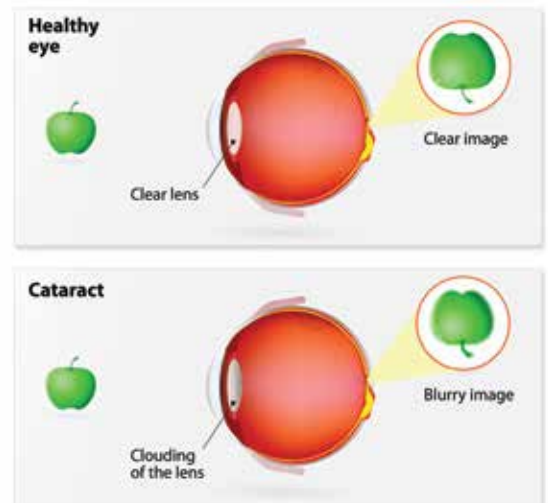
For your appointment, please bring a list of your current medications and be prepared to provide details of your medical history as well as the health history of your eyes.

The consultation will include a refraction and a dilated eye exam. The refraction is a test used to determine your best possible vision. The dilated eye exam will require eye drops to allow the pupil to become larger. The physician will then discuss the results of your testing and evaluation to help determine the options best suited for you. After your appointment, you may experience light sensitivity for a few hours after the dilation and may want to bring someone to drive you home.

# What is a cataract?

A cataract is a condition in which the lens in your eye can become cloudy and cause changes in your vision. Cataracts can develop from normal aging, an eye injury, or certain medications. They cause vision changes such as blurred and/or dulled vision, sensitivity to light and glare, and/or ghost images. If left untreated, cataracts begin to interfere with many of the activities that you enjoy. Treatment requires surgery to remove the old, clouded lens and replace it with a new, artificial one to restore your vision.

## Cataract



# Cataract Surgery Q & A

To assist with your understanding, we have provided answers to some frequently asked questions about cataract surgery:

## Q: Do I have to undergo surgery right now?

**A:** Cataract surgery is an elective procedure, meaning your surgery will be scheduled in advance and is not considered an emergency. If unsure, request to speak again with our surgeon or staff. The only treatment for cataracts is surgery.

## Q: What happens during surgery?

**A:** Cataract surgery is performed in an outpatient setting, meaning no overnight hospital stay. Your eye will be numbed, dilated with drops and then cleaned to prevent infection. The surgeon will perform your surgery in an operating room with sterile instruments. A small incision will be made and an instrument inserted into the eye to break up the cataract using ultrasound. The cataract is then suctioned from the eye and an artificial lens, called an intraocular lens or IOL, will be inserted. You will be given medication to ensure your comfort.

## Q: How does the surgeon know what lens to implant?

**A:** During your cataract evaluation, your physician will order testing to determine specific measurements of your eye. Based on the results of those tests, your physician will talk with you about replacement lens options and take into account a variety of factors, including your hobbies and lifestyle. A variety of lenses is available, but not everyone is a candidate for all options, and some lenses include an additional out-of-pocket expense.

## Q: Will my cataract come back?

**A:** No, once a cataract is removed, it cannot come back. In the months and years following the cataract surgery, you may develop a posterior capsular opacity (PCO). This means the capsule, the membrane behind the implant, becomes hazy. If this happens, the surgeon can perform a safe, quick, painless laser procedure called a laser capsulotomy to clear up your vision.

## Q: What will my recovery be like?

**A:** Your vision will be temporarily impaired following surgery, and you may feel tired from the sedatives. The surgeon will prescribe drops for you to use after surgery to prevent infection and swelling, and to help your eye heal. You may have a sensation of something being in your eye, like an eyelash or speck of dirt. This will subside with healing.



## Our Singular Focus

Horizon Eye Care knows the importance of clear vision in your life. Correcting vision problems, treating vision disorders, and helping people protect or regain their eyesight are services that are central to our practice and jointly form the sole focus of our life's work.

Our staff includes 16 board-certified ophthalmologists, ten of whom perform cataract surgery. At our six convenient locations throughout the region, Horizon Eye Care offers the personal attention of highly skilled, nationally recognized doctors utilizing state-of-the-art technology to ensure an exceptional cataract care experience.

When it comes time for your board-certified ophthalmologist to recommend treatment and replacement lens options for your cataracts, he or she will consider a variety of factors as well as your lifestyle and hobbies.





## Our Locations

### COTSWOLD

135 S. Sharon Amity Rd, Charlotte, NC 28211  
p: 704.365.0555

### HUNTERSVILLE

15419 Hodges Cir, Huntersville, NC 28078  
p: 704.892.1000

### MOORESVILLE

185 Joe Knox Ave, Mooresville, NC 28117  
p: 704.658.2321

### PINEVILLE

10520 Park Rd, Charlotte, NC 28210  
p: 704.541.6127

### UNIVERSITY

10834 Mallard Creek Rd, Charlotte, NC 28262  
p: 704.717.0058

### WAVERLY

11835 Southmore Dr, Charlotte, NC 28277  
p: 704.341.3220

## PHYSICIAN REFERRAL INFORMATION

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Appointment Date:

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Horizon Eye Care Physician: