



**LASER CATARACT
SURGERY**

LASER CATARACT SURGERY IS HERE.

Yeah, it's kind of a big deal.

We're Taking Cataract Surgery to Another Level, Yet Again.

At Associated Eye Care you can now experience advanced, bladeless cataract surgery. As the region's first and most experienced laser cataract surgery team, you can trust both our experience and technology to help you regain the vision you deserve.



YOU NEVER OUTGROW YOUR NEED FOR GOOD VISION

Maintaining good vision can improve overall health and safety, reveal new opportunities, and reopen doors that may have seemed closed. Cataracts do not have to mean the end of great vision.

At Associated Eye Care, we take pride in helping people regain activities that poor vision may have compromised over time. When you put your trust in our physicians and staff, we view that trust as a great responsibility.

This information will help you understand cataracts, cataract surgery, and the many new options available to you that can give you better vision than you ever imagined, but more importantly—**the lifestyle you desire.**

OUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Since Associated Eye Care opened in 1972, we have been committed to providing excellent patient care to everyone who walks through our doors. The doctors and surgeons at Associated Eye Care genuinely care about our patients and strive to meet their needs in meaningful and innovative ways.

New technology and advanced surgical techniques ensure our patients receive the best care possible. The doctors at Associated Eye Care continually make decisions to improve the patient experience and visual outcomes, enabling us to provide you and your family with Vision For A Lifetime.

HOW THE LENS WORKS

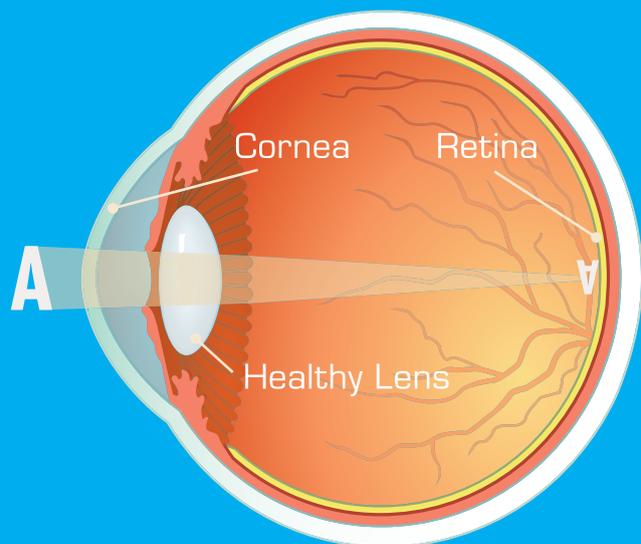
A healthy lens is transparent and flexible, allowing you to see clearly at all distances, by bending light onto the retina. As we age, the transparency and flexibility of the lens decreases, generally requiring corrective lenses to maintain visual acuity.

Depth of Field: The lens of a youthful eye is flexible and can respond to the eye's muscles, changing shape ("accommodating") and becoming thicker to see near objects clearly.

Near Vision: The eye muscles contract to focus on the lens of something that is NEAR. The near field of vision is within 16 inches of the eye.

Intermediate Vision: To go from near to INTERMEDIATE vision, the eye muscles slightly relax, allowing the lens to gently reshape. This depth of vision is between 16 and 36 inches. It is frequently referred to as "computer" vision.

Distance Vision: When your eye muscles are totally relaxed, your lens is naturally positioned for DISTANCE vision. The distance field of vision includes everything past 36 inches.



Did You Know?

Accommodation, which is the ability of the lens to adjust from a distant to a near focus, gradually declines with age.

This condition is called presbyopia, and often requires correction by reading glasses.



WHAT ARE CATARACTS?

Joanne Silverman

Laser Cataract Surgery &
Advanced Technology Lens Patient

Freedom After Cataracts

“I have a busy, active lifestyle, and I don’t have time for glasses. That’s why I chose laser cataract surgery with advanced technology lenses and I’m thrilled with my new vision. I’m seeing like I did when I was 20 years old!”

– Joanne Silverman

Cataracts are cloudy areas on the lens, inside your eye, that lead to decreased vision. Most often, this clouding takes place slowly. Over time, proteins deposit within the lens, essentially blocking light. When cataracts progress to the point that they affect vision, it’s time to trade in the cloudy lens for a crystal clear lens.

Signs indicating it’s time to have your eyes checked for cataracts:

- It’s more difficult to see signs while driving at night
- Halos appear around well-lit objects
- Your vision appears cloudy or blurry
- Colors appear muted or dull
- Your ability to see contrast has diminished
- You experience glare at night that makes it difficult to see
- Updating your glasses or contact lens prescription doesn’t improve your vision
- You experience heightened sensitivity to bright light

In most cases, cataracts are part of the normal aging process. If you live long enough, you will almost certainly develop cataracts. Studies suggest that certain lifestyle choices such as smoking, and relatively common health conditions, such as diabetes, hasten cataract development.

CATARACT SURGERY



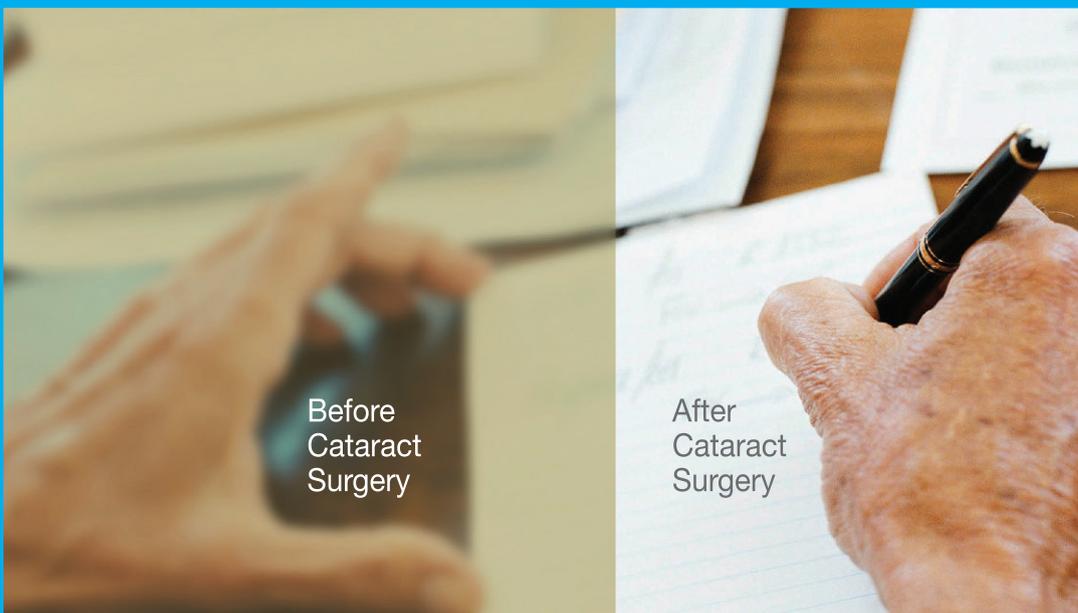
Traditional cataract surgery is straightforward: the eye's natural, clouded lens is replaced with a small artificial lens, called an intraocular lens, which restores clear vision. Traditional lenses restore visual clarity and the eye's ability to see without the cloudiness of cataracts. The procedure typically takes no longer than half an hour and is one of the safest, most commonly performed surgical procedures in the United States. Patients are often astonished by the stunning return of clear, vibrant vision.

Recently, new and improved intraocular lenses have been developed that not only correct your vision blurred by cataracts, but can also correct other vision problems as well; some that you have had your entire life or developed as you have aged. These **advanced technology lenses** allow patients to see well at multiple distance levels. Knowing your lens options allows you to assist your surgeon in personalizing your surgical experience. We want the best for our patients, and above all, we want our patients to be happy with the outcome of their surgery.

Did You Know?

Cataract removal is one of the most common surgical procedures performed in the United States. It is also one of the safest and most effective types of surgery.

Associated Eye Care has performed over 50,000 cataract surgeries since we were established in 1972.



CORRECTING MORE THAN JUST YOUR CATARACTS

Trudy Eaton

Laser Cataract Surgery &
Advanced Technology Lens Patient

Freedom After Cataracts

"I love the game of golf, and I enjoy it a lot more with my new vision. Laser cataract surgery and advanced technology lenses more than met expectations because I can see like I did when I was a kid!"

– Trudy Eaton

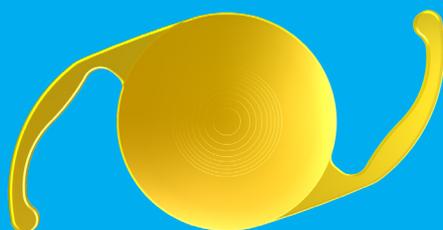
Presbyopia

Over time, the eye's lens gradually loses its elasticity and its ability to change shape to see close objects. Bifocals or reading glasses are the traditional methods for remedying loss of accommodation due to presbyopia. With use of multi-focal advanced technology lenses, it is possible to exchange the inflexible lens for one designed to compensate for changes in the eye and improve functional vision at all distances.

Astigmatism

There are various kinds of astigmatism, the most common affecting the shape of the cornea. Instead of being round, your cornea is shaped more like a football and this irregular shape prevents you from achieving clear distance vision. Basic cataract surgery corrects for the cloudy lens, but does not correct for the astigmatic error that most patients have. With the significant advancement in technology available at Associated Eye Care, such as laser cataract surgery and toric intraocular lenses, patients now have the opportunity to address both visual disturbances at the same time; the cataract and astigmatism. These options offer you a chance to enjoy quality distance vision without glasses or contact lenses after cataract surgery.

You and your surgeon will discuss which options are best for you and your vision.



ALL LASER CATARACT SURGERY

The Precision You Deserve

While all of our eyes share the same basic structure, every eye is unique. That's why every eye must be carefully measured and mapped prior to cataract surgery. During laser cataract surgery, the laser uses a range of advanced technologies to capture incredibly precise, high resolution images of your eyes. These images are then used to guide a specialized laser that assists in performing the procedure to specifications not possible with traditional cataract surgery.

Associated Eye Care is proud to be one of the few practices in the world to offer revolutionary laser cataract surgery.

How Does The Laser Work?

Your surgeon now has computer-controlled precision, through a bladeless procedure. The femtosecond laser is providing many of our patients with a new level of accuracy and reproducibility during cataract surgery. It automates some of the most challenging steps of refractive cataract surgery, replacing traditional handheld blades while optimizing all incisions for precise and accurate surgical performance. This breakthrough technology is made possible with the use of real-time, three-dimensional visualization of your procedure.

Laser Cataract Surgery Offers:

- A bladeless, advanced procedure
- A comfortable, relaxed setting
- A truly premium surgical procedure



Did You Know?

Associated Eye Care was the first clinic in Minnesota, and one of the very first in the United States, to offer all laser cataract surgery. Our practice is leading a new era in cataract surgery.



ATLs – ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY LENSES

Linda Bosch

Cataract Surgery & Toric Lens Patient

Freedom After Cataracts

“My granddaughter plays soccer, and before my surgery, I had to style her hair differently so I could recognize her on the field, even with my glasses.

With my advanced technology lenses, watching her play soccer is much more enjoyable.”

– Linda Bosch

Your Lifestyle. Your Vision.

If you want to experience greater independence from glasses, advanced technology lenses might be right for you. Associated Eye Care offers a variety of advanced technology lenses, such as multi-focal or toric, each with their own unique characteristics, with the goal to offer clearer, more precise vision. The procedure for implanting an advanced technology lens is virtually identical to the standard cataract procedure that has been safely performed for over 25 years on more than 65 million people in the U.S. alone.

Your vision is unique. It is our goal to provide our patients with a personalized cataract surgery experience. Your surgeon will conduct extensive tests to determine which option is best for your vision. Before advising you, your surgeon will want to know more about:

- Your occupation
- How many hours a day you read and what types of reading you do
- How many hours a day you use a computer
- Your outdoor activities
- Your hobbies, and whether you do intricate work, like sewing or knitting
- How much driving you do at night
- Whether you like to travel
- How bothered you are by wearing glasses
- Your willingness to pay an additional cost

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY

ORA® System

The ORA® System takes cataract surgery a step further, removing most of the uncertainty by providing real-time micro-measurements that guide your surgeon during lens placement. This allows the surgeon to make refined adjustments to optimize your outcome, and lets your surgeon verify, during surgery, that the proper correction has been made. All of this increases the likelihood of excellent results and helps reduce your need for glasses.

VERION™ Image Guided System

The VERION™ Image Guided System is designed to provide greater accuracy and efficiency during your cataract surgery. Consisting of the VERION™ Reference Unit and the VERION™ Digital Marker, this unit allows your surgeon to create a blueprint of the optimized procedure for your own eyes, making cataract surgery as personalized as it has ever been.



Did You Know?

Very few practices in the United States offer the benefits of the ORA® system. Associated Eye Care ensures that all of our physicians have access to the most current technology, providing our patients with optimum outcomes and peace of mind in all of their eye care needs.

FINANCING

Get Great Vision Today. Pay Tomorrow.

Great vision is an investment in your lifestyle and independence. While Medicare and other insurance companies may cover a portion of your surgery cost, some of the latest surgical advancements require "out-of-pocket" payment from patients. Our goal is to not let economics keep our patients from the best vision possible. Associated Eye Care offers 0% financing for 12, 18, or 24 months. Financing is also available for longer terms.

	No Interest Payment Plans *			11.90% Extended Payment Plan**
Procedure Fee	12 Month	18 Month	24 Month	60 Month
\$1,000	\$83	\$56	\$42	\$22
\$2,000	\$167	\$111	\$83	\$44
\$3,000	\$250	\$167	\$125	\$67
\$4,000	\$333	\$222	\$167	\$89
\$5,000	\$417	\$278	\$208	\$111
\$6,000	\$500	\$333	\$250	\$133

* If paid in full within the promotional period.

** Estimated monthly payments include interest.

Associated Eye Care offers financing through CareCredit, which is a healthcare credit card that allows patients to finance medical procedures not fully covered by insurance. However, like most credit cards, there are eligibility requirements that must be met before approval. For more information about this payment option please ask your surgical coordinator.



FAQ

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT CATARACT SURGERY? WE HAVE ANSWERS.

Who is a candidate for an advanced technology lens?

Advanced technology lens candidates include patients over age 45 who desire the best vision possible and less dependence on glasses, as well as individuals with cataracts that impair vision. You are not a candidate for an advanced technology lens if you have already undergone cataract surgery. Your surgeon will perform a careful examination before making any recommendations.

What does the procedure involve?

An advanced technology lens is implanted on an outpatient basis in less than 30 minutes. The eye is numbed with eye drops, and medications are given for relaxation. Your surgeon removes the eye's natural lens and replaces it with the new lens. You will feel only slight pressure. After the procedure, your surgeon administers eye drops to control inflammation and prevent infection. The small incision typically does not require stitches and heals quickly.

How long does it take to recover from cataract surgery?

Most patients are able to drive and return to work after only two or three days. The eye may still be sensitive to touch and light, and sunglasses are recommended for outdoor activities. Your surgeon will provide specific instructions before surgery. Typically, cataract surgery is performed on one eye, which is then monitored. The second eye is usually done two to three weeks later if both eyes have visually significant cataracts.

I have had LASIK. Am I still a candidate for an advanced technology lens?

As long as your eye is healthy, you can usually have an advanced technology lens implanted, even if you have already had a refractive procedure like LASIK.

I'm Ready! What's My Next Step?

If you're ready to take the next step towards better vision and a better life, call us today at 800.846.1877 to schedule your appointment. If you've already had your appointment, then call us today to schedule your procedure. Great vision could be just a phone call away!



FAQ

Did You Know?

The surgeons at Associated Eye Care offer multiple advanced technology lens options. Based on your lifestyle and visual needs, you and your surgeon will discuss your options to determine which lens is best for you!

Will I have to wear reading glasses after cataract surgery?

Until recently, life without reading glasses was not an option for most cataract patients. The standard lens traditionally implanted during a cataract procedure offers excellent distance vision, provided there is no astigmatism to manage. However, some patients require glasses for up-close tasks, such as reading, using a computer and sewing. This ultimately depends on your unique eyes and the type of lens you and your surgeon feel best fits your lifestyle. Our goal at Associated Eye Care is to give you the best vision possible.

Is there an additional cost for an advanced technology lens?

Yes. If you choose to have an advanced technology lens implanted, Medicare and most insurers will pay the standard cataract benefit, and you are responsible for the additional cost of the advanced technology lens. The implantation of an advanced technology lens requires additional pre-operative testing to measure for lens accuracy. These tests are not covered by Medicare or health insurance plans. Associated Eye Care's additional fee for an advanced technology lens includes an Extended Care Component that covers these tests as well as post-operative office visits for six months, following the date of surgery. Associated Eye Care offers a variety of zero-interest financing plans for advanced technology lenses.

Which lens is right for ME?

The choice is between a traditional lens implant plus glasses or an advanced technology lens that potentially eliminates the need for glasses.

WHERE TO FIND US

At Associated Eye Care, we're committed to bringing world-class eye care closer to home in a way that's more convenient for you. That's why we have several convenient locations for you to choose from.

Stillwater
2950 Curve Crest Blvd W
Stillwater, MN 55082

A : Associated Eye Care
B : Target

New Richmond
821 West 8th Street
New Richmond, WI 54017

A : Associated Eye Care
B : Westfields Hospital

Hudson
411 Stageline Road, Suite 200
Hudson, WI 54016

A : Associated Eye Care
B : Hudson Hospital

North Metro
14688 Everton Ave. N.
Suite 106
Hugo, MN 55038

A : Associated Eye Care (Next to HealthEast)
B : Wagners Garden Center

St. Paul
280 North Smith Avenue, Suite 840
Doctors Professional Building
St. Paul, MN 55102

A : Associated Eye Care
B : United / Children's Hospital

Woodbury
City Center Professional Building
1625 Radio Drive, 3rd Floor
Woodbury, MN 55125

A : Associated Eye Care
B : King of Kings Lutheran Church

All cataract procedures are performed at our Ambulatory Surgery Center in Stillwater, MN.

VISION FOR A LIFETIME

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call: 800.846.1877

www.associatedeyecare.com

