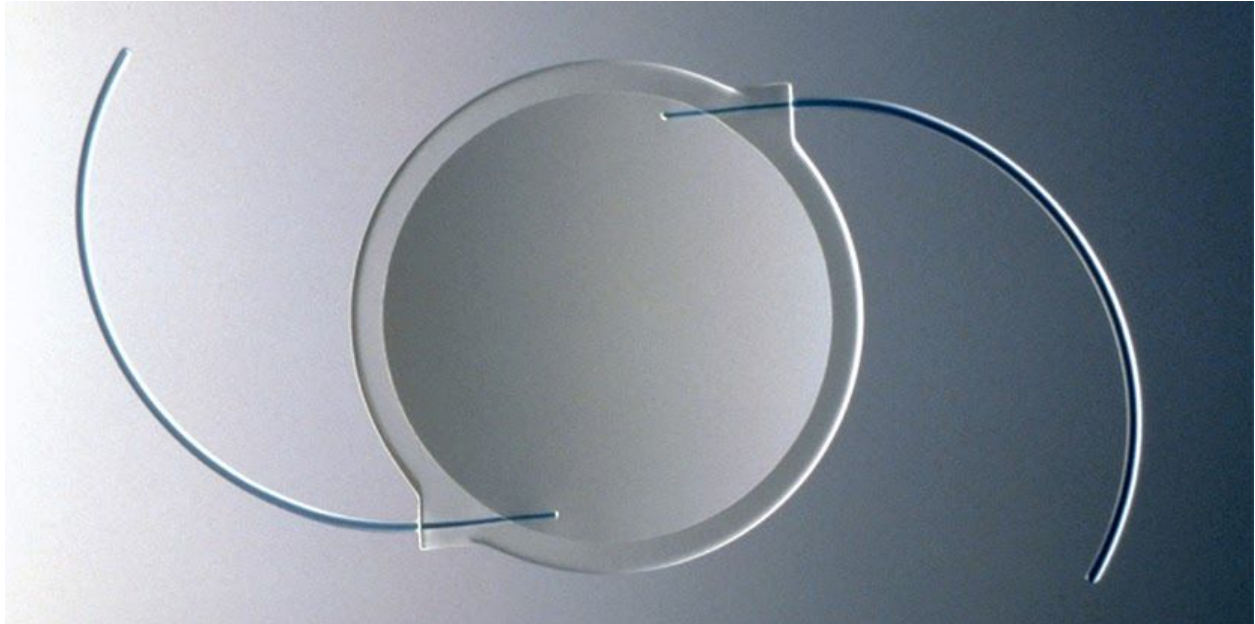


IOL Implants: Lens Replacement After Cataracts



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An [intraocular lens \(or IOL\)](#) is a tiny, artificial lens for the eye. It replaces the eye's natural lens that is removed during [cataract surgery](#).

The lens bends (refracts) light rays that enter the eye, helping you to see. Your lens should be clear. But if you have a [cataract](#), your lens has become cloudy. Things look [blurry](#), hazy or less colorful with a cataract. Cataract surgery removes this cloudy lens and replaces it with a clear IOL to improve your vision.

IOLs come in [different focusing powers](#), just like prescription [eyeglasses](#) or [contact lenses](#). Your ophthalmologist will measure the length of your eye and the curve of your [cornea](#). These measurements are used to set your IOLs focusing power.

What are IOLs made of?

Most IOLs are made of silicone, acrylic, or other plastic compositions. They are also coated with a special material to help protect your eyes from [the sun's harmful ultraviolet \(UV\) rays](#).

Monofocal IOLs

The most common type of lens used with cataract surgery is called a monofocal IOL. It has one focusing distance. It is set to focus for up close, medium range or distance vision. Most people have them set for clear distance vision. Then they wear eyeglasses for reading or close work.

Some IOLs have different focusing powers within the same lens. These are called multifocal and accommodative lenses. These IOLs reduce your dependence on glasses by giving you clear vision for more than one set distance.

Multifocal IOLs

These IOLs provide both distance and near focus at the same time. The lens has different zones set at different powers.

Accommodative IOLs

These lens move or change shape inside your eye, allowing focusing at different distances.

Toric IOLs

For people with [astigmatism](#), there is an IOL called a toric lens. Astigmatism is a refractive error caused by an uneven curve in your [cornea](#) or [lens](#). The toric lens is designed to correct that refractive error.

As you plan for your cataract surgery, talk to your ophthalmologist about your vision needs and expectations. He or she will explain IOL options for you in more detail.

Source: <https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/cataracts-iol-implants>