

WEST GEORGIA EYE CARE CENTER

Frequently Asked Questions

About Multi-focal Intraocular Lenses

Implantable Intraocular Lenses (IOLs) have undergone tremendous technological advances since they were first introduced in 1949. Today's IOL's may be indicated for patients with and without cataracts and may allow patients to see clearly at all focal distances without bifocals or reading glasses.

Can I have a Multi-focal Intraocular Lens?

A Multi-focal IOL may be an option for you to see clearly without glasses or contact lenses. There are some specific guidelines for candidacy and more extensive preoperative examination and testing is done in the office to ensure optimal results. At the time of your preoperative exam your physician will carefully evaluate your candidacy.

What is a Multi-focal Intraocular Lens?

Traditional Intraocular Lenses are designed to allow for the best distance vision. Most patients with traditional IOLs need bifocals or reading glasses to see at near focal points such as reading. Multi-focal Implantable Lenses are designed to allow for the best distance vision but still allow clear near vision, and clear intermediate vision. About 80% of Multi-focal IOL patients report that they never wear glasses for reading or other activities.

Are there different types of Multi-focal Intraocular Lenses?

Yes, at West Georgia Eye Care Center, we offer different styles of Multi-focal IOLs. We currently offer ReSTOR, Rezoom, and Crystalens. Your physician will do a careful examination of your individual visual needs. The type of IOL that he advises will be based on careful discussion of your lifestyle and your goals.

Do I have to be diagnosed with a Cataract to have a Multi-focal Intraocular Lens?

If you have a cataract that requires surgical intervention then it is likely that you are a candidate for a Multi-focal IOL. If you do not have a cataract, you may still be a candidate for the off-label use of a Multi-focal IOL to achieve good vision without glasses or contact lenses.

If I am not a candidate for a Multi-focal Intraocular Lens is it possible that I may be a candidate for another procedure to be free from my glasses?

If after careful examination your physician advises that the Multi-focal IOL is not in your best interest, you may still be a candidate for an alternate refractive procedure.

Are Multi-focal Intraocular Lenses safe?

The procedure used to implant the Multi-focal IOL is the same straight-forward procedure used for many years to implant traditional IOLs during cataract surgery. Data obtained during exhaustive trials shows that most patients experience a significant improvement in their uncorrected vision (vision without glasses or contact lenses) after receiving a Multi-focal IOL.

Will I need to have a Multi-focal Intraocular Lens in both eyes?

For the most part a Multi-focal Intraocular Lens procedure is intended to be binocular (both eyes). The protocol is to have the first eye done and then the second eye can usually follow within about four weeks.

Will I have to go to the Hospital?

The procedure does require highly technical equipment and careful control of the environment. However, use of the hospital is usually not necessary. The ambulatory surgical facility (The Surgery Center) is able to accommodate this procedure and patients report very favorable experiences. Evergreen beneficiaries must use The Medical Center.

Will Insurance pay for my Multi-focal procedure?

If you have a cataract that requires surgical intervention and meets your insurance company's standard for medical necessity, then your insurance may pay a portion. If you do not have a medical necessity then your procedure would not be covered by insurance.

Is a Multi-focal lens affordable for me?

The affordability of a Multi-focal Lens should be considered as compared to the repetitive costs of replacing glasses or contact lenses. You can receive great value from freedom from your glasses or contact lenses. We also offer various finance packages including interest free options!

For additional information please contact one of our full time refractive surgery coordinators, Misty Ekstrom, COA or Kelly Bryan, at (706) 323-3491, ext. 130.