

# Eye Unit

## Cataract Surgery Information Leaflet



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## The Cataract

Your Eye Surgeon has recommended Cataract surgery because the lens in your eye has become cloudy, making it difficult for you to see.

## The operation

The operation is carried out as a day case and you should eat and drink normally before arriving at the hospital and take your medication as usual. Just before the operation a small tablet will be inserted into the lower eyelid to enlarge the pupil. This is not painful and will be removed during surgery. You will have a Local Anaesthetic and be awake during the operation. You will not be able to see what is happening but will be aware of a bright light.

## The procedure

You will be given a local anaesthetic to numb the eye.

During the operation you will be asked to keep your head still and lie as flat as possible. Your head will be covered with a sterile drape to keep the eye clean. This drape is lifted off of your nose and mouth. The Procedure usually takes around 20 minutes. During the operation, you will be given a buzzer to hold.

You will be discharged with Eye drops for 4 weeks.

## Likelihood of better vision

After the operation you may read or watch TV almost straightaway, but your vision may be blurred. The vision will gradually clear after the first few days. You will not get the best vision for distance and reading until you have seen your optician at around 4 weeks post-surgery.

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## Benefits of Cataract surgery

The most obvious benefit after surgery is the improvement of your vision. Because lens implants are selected to compensate for existing focusing problems, most people find their vision improves considerably after surgery.

## Possible complications during the operation

- Tearing at the back part of the lens capsule with disturbance of the gel inside the eye that may sometimes result in reduced vision
- Loss of all or part of the cataract into the back of the eye requiring a further operation.
- Bleeding inside the eye

## Possible complications after the operation

- High pressure inside the eye
- Clouding of the cornea
- Incorrect strength or dislocation of the implant
- Swelling of the retina called macular oedema
- Detached retina which can lead to loss of sight
- Infection in the eye – Endophthalmitis which can lead to a loss of sight in the eye.
- Allergy to the medication

Complications are rare and in most cases can be treated effectively

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## **Ophthalmology Department**

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Central B28 & B29  
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Foundation Trust  
Combe Park  
Bath  
BA1 3NG

**If you have any further questions, please call:**

**Monday – Friday 9am -5pm  
Eye Clinic (01225) 826989**

**If you have an emergency on evenings, bank holidays and weekends:**

**Ring the RUH switchboard (01225) 428331 and ask for the on call eye doctor.**

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust  
Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG

01225 428331 | [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

If you would like this leaflet in email form, large print, braille or another language, please contact the Patient Support and Complaints team on 01225 825656.

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