What is a cataract?
The term ‘cataract’ is used to describe the clouding of the natural lens of the eye, usually as part of the natural aging process. The vision dims because the cataract prevents light from passing beyond the lens and focusing on the retina.

What causes a cataract?
The most common type is related to aging and referred to as a senile cataract. Other common causes are:
- Family history
- Medical problems, such as diabetes
- Long-term use of medications, such as steroids
- Injury to the eye
- Congenital
- Previous eye surgery
- Long-term unprotected exposure to sunlight

What are the symptoms of a cataract?
Common symptoms of a cataract:
- Painless blurring of vision
- Glare or light sensitivity

Frequent changes in eyeglass prescription
- Poor night vision
- Needing a brighter light to read
- Double vision in one eye
- Fading colours

Common misconceptions cleared:
- Cataract is not a film over the surface of the eye
- It is not caused by overusing the eyes
- Not infectious [will not spread from one eye to the other], nor a cancer
- Not a cause of irreversible blindness
Q. How is a cataract detected?
A. A thorough eye examination by an ophthalmologist detects the presence and the extent of a cataract. Other conditions that could additionally compromise vision can also be detected, particularly problems involving the cornea, retina or the optic nerve.

Q. How fast does a cataract develop?
A. Cataract development varies among individuals and may even vary between the two eyes. Most cataracts associated with the aging process develop over years. Cataracts in younger patients and in those with diabetes may develop rapidly.

Q. Treatment of a cataract?
A. Surgery is the only way a cataract can be removed. No dietary supplements, medications, exercises or optical devices have been proven to prevent or cure cataract.

Q. When should surgery be done?
A. Surgery should be considered when the cataract causes enough visual disturbances to interfere with daily activities, such as job requirements, safe driving and household activities. Based on these needs and examination findings, the patient and the ophthalmologist should decide together when surgery is appropriate. It is not true that cataracts need to be ‘ripe’ before they can be removed. In fact advances in the field of cataract surgery have made it easier to remove an immature cataract than a mature ['ripe'] cataract.

Q. What should I expect from a cataract surgery?
A. Cataract surgery is a microscopic surgery usually performed under local or topical anaesthesia.

The cloudy lens is removed by **Phacoemulsification**, which is a micro-incision technique of cataract surgery wherein a probe breaks the cataract into tiny pieces and sucks them out. If a foldable implant is inserted the incision size is smaller (2.8 - 3.0 mm) as compared to an approximately 5 mm incision to accommodate a non-foldable lens. Both incisions are self-sealing and need no stitches. We will help you decide as to which lens should suit you best.

**Q. What are the benefits of low-stress phacoemulsification surgery for cataract?**
A. The wound is smaller [resulting in faster healing and visual rehabilitation], the surgical time is reduced, and no stitches are required. There is minimal or no post-operative discomfort and a quick return to your normal routine.

Cataract Surgery can now be customized to reduce and usually eliminate dependence on glasses for distance, intermediate vision and reading

**Plan your Cataract Surgery at Shroff Eye in 9 easy steps™**

- Send us your e-mail response with any queries you have
- Have your consultation appointment scheduled by e-mail or telephone
- Rigorous Evaluation- Check up and specific tests by appointment
- Organize and Schedule the Cataract procedure (After the investigations and Lab tests are done and checked)
- Fix the surgery date
- Follow up check next day with the Doctor
- Eye drops to be used as per prescription
- Your next check is with the doctor and Final Check up with the optometrist for glasses
- Enjoy your vision...

**Open your eyes to a whole new world!**

This leaflet is intended to provide general information for patients.

---

Shroff Eye Hospital is India's first eye hospital to be accredited by JCI – Joint Commission International, USA for excellence in patient care and health care delivery

**Shroff Eye Clinic**
Gobind Mahal, 86-B Netaji Subhash Road
Marine Drive, Mumbai 400 002. India
Tel: (+91-22) 22814077 / 22029242
Fax: (+91-22) 2281 2751

**Shroff Eye Hospital • Vision Research Centre**
222 S. V. Road, old Bandra Talkies
Bandra (West), Mumbai 400 050. India
Tel: (+91-22) 6692 1000 / 26431006
Fax: (+91-22) 6694 9880

E-mail: info@shroffeye.org
www.shroffeye.org
www.lasikindia.in
www.pathologylabindia.com
Eye Helpline: +91 98211 63901
Lab Tests Helpline: +91 98211 41024

---

"Fact About Cataract"

**Shroff Eye Opener™ # 14**

Treat your cataract when it starts to interfere with your quality of life

---

E-mail: info@shroffeye.org
www.shroffeye.org
www.lasikindia.in
www.pathologylabindia.com
Eye Helpline: +91 98211 63901
Lab Tests Helpline: +91 98211 41024