

## ***Huffman and Huffman –Eye Care Center, LLC***

238 GERI LANE RICHMOND, KY 40475

PHONE: 859-623-2020 FAX: 859-623-0346

Eye Physicians and Surgeons \* Consultative Ophthalmology

Dr's. James G. Huffman, M.D., Mark D. Huffman, M.D., James M. Huffman, M.D., Justin West, M.D.,

Adrienne Millett, M.D., and Rebekah Huffman, D.O.

### **INFORMED CONSENT FOR CATARACT SURGERY**

#### **WHAT IS A CATARACT AND HOW IS IT TREATED?**

The lens in the eye can become cloudy and hard, a condition known as a cataract. Cataracts can develop from normal aging, from an eye injury, or if you have taken medications known as steroids. Cataracts can cause blurred vision, dulled vision, sensitivity to light and glare, and/or ghost images. If the cataract changes vision so much that it interferes with your daily life, the cataract may need to be removed. Surgery is the only way to remove a cataract. You can decide not to have the cataract removed. If you don't have the surgery, your vision loss from the cataract will continue to grow worse.

#### **HOW WILL REMOVING THE CATARACT AFFECT MY VISION?**

The goal of cataract surgery is to correct the decreased vision that was caused by the cataract. During the surgery, the ophthalmologist (eye surgeon) removes the cataract and puts in a new artificial lens called an intraocular lens, or IOL. Cataract surgery will not correct other causes of decreased vision, such as glaucoma, diabetes, or age-related macular degeneration. Most people still need to wear glasses or contact lens after cataract surgery for either near and/or distance vision and astigmatism.

#### **WHAT TYPE OF IOL'S ARE AVAILABLE?**

Your ophthalmologist will help you decide on the type of IOL that will replace your cloudy lens. There are IOL's available to treat nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia), and astigmatism. IOL's usually provides either near or distance vision: these single focus lenses are called Monofocal IOL's. Some newer IOL's can provide near, intermediate, and distance vision: these lenses are called Multifocal IOL's. IOL's that treat astigmatism are called Toric IOL's. You can also have one eye corrected for near vision, and the other for distance, a choice called Monovision. Monovision is usually only available for patients who have worn contact lenses before in that manner.

#### **WHAT IS ASTIGMATISM? ARE THERE OTHER FORMS OF TREATMENT FOR IT?**

Patients with nearsightedness and farsightedness often also have astigmatism. Astigmatism is caused by an irregularly shaped cornea, instead of being round like a basketball, the cornea is shaped like a football. This can make your vision blurry and out of focus. In addition to Toric IOL's, astigmatism can be reduced by glasses, contact lenses, and refractive surgery (LASIK or PRK). Any attempt at astigmatism reduction could result in over or under correction, in which case glasses, contact lenses, or any other procedures may be needed.

#### **WHAT ARE THE MAJOR RISKS OF CATARACT SURGERY?**

All operations and procedures are risky and can result in unsuccessful results, complications, injury, or even death, from both known and unknown causes. The major risks of cataract surgery include, but are not limited to: bleeding, infection, injury to parts of the eye and nearby structures from the anesthesia, the operation itself, or pieces of the lens that cannot be removed, high eye pressure, a detached retina, and a droopy eyelid.

Depending upon your eye and the type of IOL, you may have increased night glare or halos, double vision, ghost images, impaired depth perception, blurry vision, and trouble driving at night. The ophthalmologist might not be able to put the IOL in that you choose. In addition, the IOL may later need to be replaced or repositioned, in rare cases. Depending on the type of anesthesia, other risks are possible, including cardiac and respiratory problems, and, in rare cases, death.

There is no guarantee that cataract surgery or astigmatism reduction will improve your vision. As a result of surgery and/or anesthesia, it is possible that your vision could be made worse. In some cases, complications may occur weeks, months, even years later. These and other complications may result in poor vision, total loss of vision, or even loss of the eye in rare situations. You may need additional treatment or surgery to treat these complications. This additional treatment is not included in the fee for this surgery.