



Cataract Surgery

Lens Type Information

Today's intraocular lenses

In the following, we will provide you with a brief overview of the intraocular lenses available on the market. During the pre-examination you and your doctor will select the perfect lens for you.

Monofocal lenses

Today, monofocal lenses constitute approximately 98 % of all implanted lenses. These lenses have only one focal point, i.e. they are selected so as to afford good near or distance vision. You will continue to need glasses (reading glasses or glasses for distance vision). Modern monofocal lenses all have integral UV protection.

The current standard lens, which is fully covered by the health insurance, is a spherical monofocal lens. The only disadvantage of this lens is that the quality of the image and the contrast vision – especially at dawn, dusk and at night – are often not ideal.

There are a number of monofocal lenses on the market today that offer further optical functionalities. These lenses are described on the next page.

Available monofocal lenses

The following other monofocal lens types are available today:

Aspheric blue light-filtering lens

This lens has an aspheric refraction that, compared to a spherical monofocal lens, considerably improves both the contrast perception and night vision. Also the glare sensitivity is reduced.

In addition to UV protection, the blue light-filtering lens has an integrated blue light filter. This reduces colour perception disorders and it is assumed that this protection can help prevent potential damage to the retina. This lens is most frequently implanted by us today.

Especially young patients and people with retinal disorders are presumed to benefit particularly well from this artificial lens.

Toric lens

This lens is only meaningful for patients with a pronounced irregular curvature of the cornea. A highly accurate measurement of the eye is imperative for this. During the surgery, the lens must be positioned very accurately in the eye in line with the irregular curvature of the cornea. Sometimes these lenses have to be made individually.

Multifocal lenses and alternatives

In addition to the monofocal lenses, multifocal lenses are also available on the market today:

Multifocal lenses (bifocal / trifocal)

This type of lens is of interest to patients whose top priority is freedom from glasses, whilst optical requirements are regarded as less important. These lenses have two or three focal points, allowing you to see a sharp image at different distances.

With this type of lens, you can usually cope with everyday life without having to wear glasses. Unfortunately, this lens has a number of distinctive drawbacks even today. Increased glare sensitivity, halos (rings around sources of light) and night vision problems are frequent occurrences. These potential disadvantages must be accepted in return for a life without glasses. In Switzerland the market share of these lenses is approximately 1–2%.

Alternative to multifocal lenses:

Monovision

Monovision is not a lens type. Here, both eyes are “adjusted” to different distances, meaning that with one eye you will have sharp near vision, whilst with the other eye you will see clearly in the distance. The brain merges the two different images, resulting in an acceptably clear image both in the distance and up close. Disadvantage: Stereoscopic vision is slightly restricted by monovision.

We will be happy to discuss your personal suitability for monovision during your pre-examination.
