

Cataract surgery

- The eye is not removed from its socket during any type of eye surgery. A very small cut is made at the top or side of your eye at the edge of the cornea (the clear window at the front of the eye). The cut will heal on its own without any stitches.
- An instrument, called a phaco probe, is passed through the cut. A hole is made in the lens capsule covering the front surface of the cataract, and the probe is passed into it. The probe breaks the cataract into very small pieces, which are then sucked out of the eye. The remainder of the lens capsule, the clear outer covering of the cataract, is left in place.
- A plastic lens is used to replace the focus of the cataract. It is folded in half and pushed through the cut at the front of the eye and into the lens capsule using a special injector. Once inside the lens capsule, the plastic lens unfolds to its normal shape.
- Some patients have a condition called astigmatism in which the cornea is more curved in one direction than the other. Toric lenses can be used at the time of cataract surgery to correct the astigmatism.
- After the operation a clear plastic shield will be placed over the eye for a few hours. You should also wear the shield at night for the first 2 nights to protect the eye. The eye does not need to be padded and you will be able to blink normally under the shield. You can go home very soon after the operation if it is performed under local anaesthetic without sedation.

