

## Frequently asked questions

### 1. How long before I can drive?

Usually between 3-7 days after the surgery. However please check with Dr Phipps prior to driving.

### 2. How long before I can get new glasses?

4-6 weeks after your surgery.

### 3. How long should I take off work/sport/swimming etc

You will need to take approximately 7 days off work, sport and swimming. Dr Phipps can provide a sick certificate for this period.

### 4. Do I need to use any drops?

Yes. On discharge you will be given instructions along with drops to use for 4 weeks after the surgery.

### 5. Do I need someone with me on the day?

Yes. You will need a support person to pick you up from the day surgery after the procedure. You are advised to have someone with you for the first 24 hours.



Goodwood Eye Centre



**Important  
information about  
Cataract surgery**



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### **What is a cataract?**

It is a decrease in the transparency of the lens in the eye usually related to age. The lens with age becomes clouded leading to reduced vision. Patients with cataracts often describe their vision as blurry. This will impact on reading, driving and other important activities.

### **What creates a cataract?**

They generally form as we age, however, some diseases or an eye injury may cause a cataract.

### **What do I need to do if I have a cataract?**

You will need to discuss your options and decide if you wish to proceed with surgery. There are no non surgery options to remove a cataract.

### **What is cataract surgery?**

It is a microsurgical procedure to remove a cataract from the eye. The surgery is performed in a day surgery theatre. During this procedure the natural lens is removed in pieces and replaced with an artificial lens.

### **What type of artificial lens do I choose?**

Depending on your needs there are several types of artificial lenses available. Dr Phipps will discuss these with you. In many cases your reliance on glasses could be reduced with your new artificial lens.

### **Where does surgery take place?**

The procedure is performed at the Tennyson Day Hospital unit on South Road. You will spend a morning at the centre. A nurse will review your medical records prior to an anaesthetic being given to the eye by an Anaesthetist. The cataract surgery will last about 15-20 minutes and after a recovery period you will be allowed to leave with your support person.

### **What will happen after the procedure?**

Your eye will remain covered after the procedure for approximately 24 hours. You will be given an appointment to see Dr Phipps the following day at the Goodwood Eye Centre.

### **What are the risks of cataract surgery?**

Dr Phipps will discuss the risks with you in detail.

While the success rate of cataract surgery is very high and generally 99%, very rarely infections, bleeding or retinal detachment can occur leading to permanent visual loss.

In very rare cases it may not be possible to:

- remove the entire cataract
- place an artificial lens in the eye
- improve the vision as much as hoped
- avoid unwanted visual side effects.

All of the above mentioned complications may require additional surgery.

As a late complication scar tissue can form behind the lens implant decreasing vision and requiring Laser Posterior Capsulotomy to remedy it.

### **What is the expected recovery time?**

Usually 7 days.