IOL Choices for Cataract Surgery

Every cataract surgery patient requires an intraocular lens (IOL). IOL's are like contact lenses which are inserted permanently in the eye. They replace your cloudy lens with a clear acyrlic substitute to provide crisp focus. Like with contacts, or even spectacle lenses, IOL's have differing optical dioptric powers and designs.

Prior to surgery your eyes will be measured in our office with a specialized machine to determine the best IOL power for your vision. This is known as an "A scan" and it uses ultrasound to carefully measure the length and curvature of your eyes (astigmatism). You do not need any dilation or special drops for this A-scan. It is a rapid measurement.

We will discuss the various styles of IOL's available to you at your initial exam and at the A scan session. There are *two classes of IOL's* that are available: standard and premium.

Standard IOL's

Standard IOL's are high quality acrylic devices that provide excellent vision results at a <u>single</u> focal plane. They are a common choice for many patients as they can often correct for distance vision and are included in most insurance plans. Standard lenses are "monofocal" – that is they don't correct for astigmatism, reading or computer range vision. As such, patients with standard IOL's will need reading glasses. In addition, they will need distance glasses if there's astigmatism. There are no additional out of pocket costs for standard IOL's.

Premium IOL's

Premium IOL's have an advanced acrylic design that allow them to correct for near vision as well as distance vision. In addition they can correct for various levels of astigmatism. If you are interested in having better vision for your close up tasks – including reading, hobby work, computer usage, playing games, etc… -- without reliance of glasses, then these lenses can be a big asset. Premium lenses are not considered a medical necessity and as such their added costs are not covered by insurance companies.

There are two choices for Premium IOL's to consider, both of which are designed to give you independence from glasses.

PANOPTIX – The Panoptix lens, manufactured by ALCON, is designed to give you the widest available range of vision at close up, intermediate and distance viewing. It accomplishes this through fine concentric rings that are built into the surface of the implant. Like a progressive spectacle lens, these rings give you various levels of optical power at differing distances. Due to the diffractive presence of the rings patients will notice some halos at night from headlights and may be close to, but not precisely 20/20 at distance. The out of pocket cost for the PANOPTIX are $4500 for the pair of implants.

VIVITY- Like the Panoptix, this multifocal lens, manufactured by ALCON, gives patients a wide range of vision – both at close up, intermediate and distance. It does not use rings to aid the focus, but rather a smoother elevated island of acrylic to focus at near. What this means is that the VIVITY typically carries less concerns of halos at night and perhaps a crisper level of distance vision compared to the PANOPTIX. However, it also doesn't allow patients the range of up close reading that the PANOPTIX can provide. One should expect to be able to do many things up close with a VIVITY lens – including computer work, looking at your phone, shopping and casual reading. But, if you do a lot of extended reading then the PANOPTIX may provide more consistent clarity. The out of pocket costs for the VIVITY is $4000 for the pair of implants.

It is important to understand that with any IOL's, from standard to the Premium versions, there can be no absolute guarantee that patients will be 20/20 or out of glasses – for distance viewing or near work. That is because despite all our careful measurements, some variability exists in surgery and healing from eye to eye and patient to patient. Today's predictability in cataract surgery is the most accurate that it's ever been, but still one cannot make an absolute promise that there may be some residual refractive errors or other ophthalmic issues that are not anticipated.

Want to learn more. Go to our website, www.clayeyecenter.com where you can click on links to www.myalcon.com for more information about IOL's.