



A PATIENT GUIDE TO SURGICAL PROCEDURES

OUR SURGEONS

The OCC's Dr. Armogan, Dr. DeAngelis and Dr. Yan are board certified surgeons who are highly experienced in their fields of ophthalmology of vitreo retinal surgery, cataract surgery, oculoplastic surgery and glaucoma surgery. To find out more about their surgical specialties, please visit the doctor profiles on our website.

CLINICAL AND SURGICAL APPOINTMENTS

For any inquiries or concerns regarding clinical appointments, please contact our Clinical Department directly. Likewise, all surgical inquiries should be voiced to our Surgical Department.

SURGERY SCHEDULING

Patients who require eye surgery will be contacted by a Surgical Counselor to schedule their surgical and post-surgical treatment dates. As professionals who are trained in diagnostic testing and patient care, they will also inform you on the progression of your treatment both before and after surgery and be available to help you handle medical concerns regarding your ocular condition.

PROGRESSION OF SURGICAL TREATMENT

Your Surgical Counselor will set the following standard appointments before and after your surgery to ensure that maximum care is given to treat your ocular condition. They are:

- 1. Initial appointment** with the surgeon to assess your ocular condition.
- 2. Speaking to a Surgical Counselor** on surgical options and costs covered or not covered by your provincial health care plan and to set your surgery date.
- 3. Surgical Coordinator Appointment** to schedule pre-surgery ancillary testing times. These pre-surgery appointments will be set within four weeks prior to your surgery date.
- 4. A pre-operative assessment by an independent doctor** must be performed to ensure that your body can uptake anesthesia for surgery.
- 5. Surgery** will take place as scheduled with the Surgical Counselor. Please note that you will have to clear your schedule to prepare for and recovery from the surgery and have a responsible adult accompany you on the day of your surgery.
- 6. Follow up appointments** will be scheduled to ensure your ocular condition is healing well post-surgery.

Please keep in mind that your surgery date may be scheduled a few months after your initial appointment with the surgeon. Surgery dates are decided on a variety of medical and non-medical factors which are ultimately utilized to give you the best care possible.

SURGICAL COORDINATOR APPOINTMENT

The appointment with your Surgical Coordinator will provide you with important information regarding your surgical treatment. You will receive key instructions on administering pre-operative eye drops, caring for your ocular condition after surgery, restrictions on physical activity following surgery as well as the dates for your post operative treatments. Patients preparing for cataract surgery will also undergo eye tests during their Surgical Coordinator appointment. In addition, payment for non-OHIP surgical procedures will be made during the Surgical Coordinator Appointment. For more information on methods of payment, please look at Patient Care on our website.

SCHEDULING VISITS FOR CATARACT AND VITRECTOMY SURGERY

Before surgery, you will require several appointments with the surgeon and your surgical counselors to take pre-operative measurements, undergo eye and physical examinations, complete consent forms and to make your payment. All appointments are required in order to best prepare for your surgical treatment. After your surgery is complete, your ocular condition will be monitored for a minimum of a month to ensure that your healing process is smooth and to treat any additional complications which may develop. Follow up appointments may take place during various times of day according to variations in eye pressure during the day, the type of testing required and the availability of post operative specialists.

RISK AND BENEFITS OF SURGERY

Every surgery carries with it the risk of damage. This is why it is important that you are aware of the risks associated with your surgery as well as the extent to which it can benefit your ocular condition. Below is a summary of possible complications associated with each ocular surgery. Please contact our Surgical Department if you have any other questions pertaining to surgical procedure, surgical risks, treatment benefits or concerns about your surgery.

CATARACT SURGERY

Typical ocular complications after undergoing cataract surgery include a dropped or subluxed lens, glaucoma and cystoids macular edema. It also carries the small risk of going blind, with less than one percent of all patients or one in a thousand patients experiencing blindness after cataract surgery.

VITRECTOMY SURGERY

There is a variety of complications associated with undergoing vitrectomy surgery, from those arising from the surgery itself and others which are caused by the patient's specific ocular condition. Normal ocular complications due to vitrectomy surgery include retinal detachments, ocular infection, bleeding within the eye and glaucoma. The patient can also experience an increase in intraocular pressure after gas use during vitrectomy surgery or blindness due to infection and the patient's ocular disease. Occasionally, the complications which develop after vitrectomy surgery will require surgery to correct or treat. Nevertheless, the patient's ocular condition will be closely monitored in order to prevent any other ocular damage due to surgical complications after vitrectomy surgery.

OCULOPLASTIC SURGERY

The severity of complications due to oculoplastic surgery varies from procedure to procedure. In general, there is a one in ten thousand patient risk of blindness as well as an overall risk of developing

double vision, bleeding within the eye, increased tearing, droopy or retracted eyelids, corneal infections, corneal ulcers, scarring and nose bleeds. Please contact your Surgical Counselor on the risk of developing complications specific to your ocular condition.

WAIT TIMES FOR SURGICAL TREATMENT

Wait times for surgical treatment is dependent on the urgency and complexity of the patient's ocular condition, operating room availability and surgeon availability. The current wait time for **cataract surgery** is between two to six months. **Retinal surgeries** however, can take place after one to three months because they treat medical emergencies. Wait times for an **oculoplastic surgery** on the other hand can vary because it involves medical emergencies such as cancer related ocular conditions as well as cosmetic needs. Thus, oculoplastic surgery wait times can be anywhere between one to twelve months.

POST SURGICAL RECOVERY

Patients who undergo **cataract** or **vitrectomy surgery** will experience blurriness in their vision after surgery. It typically takes two to six weeks for **cataract surgery** patients to gain clearer vision and change glass prescriptions. Patients treated with **vitrectomy surgery** can require three to six months to regain their vision. Depending on their ocular condition, these patients may or may not see an improvement in vision after surgery. **Oculoplastic surgery** typically leaves the patient's eyes swollen and bruised, although it usually clears up in two weeks. Patients may also require stitches to be removed if the ones used during surgery were non-dissolvable. After undergoing oculoplastic surgery, patients can expect to see results of their surgery in a few months.