



מרכז רפואי ע"ש ברוך פדה, פוריה
מסונף לפקולטה לרפואה של אוניברסיטת בר אילן בגליל
The BARUCH PADEH Medical Center, Poriya
Affiliated to The Faculty of Medicine in Galilee - Bar Ilan University



Organization Accredited
by Joint Commission International

Ophthalmology Unit

Head of the Unit:

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Ophthalmology Unit phone no.: 04-6652226

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דף הסבר לפני ניתוח ירוד (קטרקט)

An explanation leaflet prior to cataract surgery

What is a cataract?

Cataract is a condition in which the lens of the eye becomes cloudy, a situation which affects visual acuity and quality of vision. The common complaints in that condition are: changes in the strength of spectacles, blurred vision, glare and change of colors vision.

The reasons for cataract development are varied and include among other, age dependent cataract, cataract that develops as a result of injury to the eye, congenital / hereditary cataract, cataract that develops as a consequence of use of medications (eg steroids) and more.

In cases of age dependent cataract, the development of the cataract is usually gradual and therefore the complaints which were mentioned, develop gradually. The cloudiness of the lens usually appears in both eyes, although not necessarily symmetrically.

When should cataract surgery take place?

When the visual disturbance caused by the cataract is significant and affects daily functioning.

How is cataract surgery performed?

The surgery is usually done under local anesthesia. During the surgery an opening is created in the lens capsule, the lens is dispersed by ultrasonic waves and its particles are removed by suction. The lens is replaced by an artificial lens which is inserted into the empty capsule. This lens is usually a mono-focal and is meant for distance or near vision.

Pre - surgery preparation

- You should undergo general tests at your clinic (ECG, blood tests).
- You need to bring a detailed letter from your family practitioner regarding disease and medications you are taking.
- Patients that take warfarin tablets regularly should inform the doctor at the preoperative examination.



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- You have to bring a commitment form for surgery from your health insurance (cataract surgery liability form No. 66984)

On the morning of surgery (surgery under local anesthesia)

- A 4 hours fasting, unless otherwise stated, drinking of clear water is allowed until an hour before surgery.
- On the morning of surgery all medications should be taken as usual especially antihypertensives medications.
- Medications for diabetes or insulin injection should not be taken .
- About an hour before surgery, eye drops will be instilled into the eye which is designated for surgery.
- Please allocate for the surgery an entire morning as you are expected to stay in the hospital for about 6 hours.

After surgery (surgery under local anesthesia)

- The eye is left bandaged with a plastic shield until an examination by the surgeon, about two hours after surgery or the next day.
- After surgery you may have a sensation of a foreign body, discomfort and mild pain. If necessary, please contact the medical / nursing staff for treatment.
- Do not rub the eye or press on it.
- **It is recommended to sleep with a plastic shield for 3 nights.**

Possible complications after surgery

(This list does not substitute the details which appear in the surgery consent form)

- A decrease in corneal transparency.
- A wrong placement of the implanted lens.
- Bleeding.
- Retinal edema.
- Tears in the retina and retinal detachment.
- An intraocular infection.

Most of these complications are treatable and in most of them visual acuity improves after treatment.



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It is important to note that even in a successful surgery, in some cases the vision does not improve or improves only partially.

For example in cases of retinal degeneration, advanced glaucoma, optic nerve degeneration or damage as a result of diabetes.

The surgery is not intended to abolish the use of spectacles and after surgery, spectacles are still required to improve vision.

(You need to be aware that currently, lenses that can abolish the dependency on spectacles do exist, but are not available in the public health system).

During the first days after surgery, the vision is slightly blurred and sometimes it is in shades of blue and light blue. Vision stabilizes about 3 weeks after surgery. In a healthy eye, the chances for good vision after surgery are high, image clarity and quality of vision improve significantly.

Usually you will be invited for a follow - up after one week and for another one 3 weeks later. During this period it is necessary to instill eye drops as directed. (it is possible to have the follow - up at an ophtalmologist in the community).

vision quality is quality of life!

Wishing you a successful and speedy recovery!

Eye Clinic staff