

Welcome to Empire Eye Physicians.

We offer a remarkable combination of advanced surgical skills and state-of-the-art medical technology. Our elite team of board certified surgeons, specialty trained physicians and staff will care for you in a personalized manner.

FREQUENTLY ASKED CATARACT QUESTIONS

What is a cataract? A cataract is the clouding of the eye's natural lens and for most people, cataracts are part of the aging process. They can also be caused by an injury to the eye, a disease process, medications, or even long term exposure to sunlight. Not all cataracts require surgery. However, if the cataract is causing blurred vision and difficulty performing daily tasks, it is time to consider surgery. During cataract surgery, the cataract (cloudy lens) is removed from the eye and replaced by an Intraocular Lens (IOL) or artificial lens.

What is laser-assisted cataract surgery? Laser-assisted cataract surgery is a more advanced way to perform cataract surgery and is used to improve your vision and decrease the need for glasses. During the procedure, your surgeon will use the laser to create a circular opening for accessing and removing the cataract. The laser is used to make small corneal corrections for astigmatism, an irregularly shaped cornea which causes distorted and blurry vision. Energy from the laser is used to break the cataract up into small pieces so it can be more easily removed.

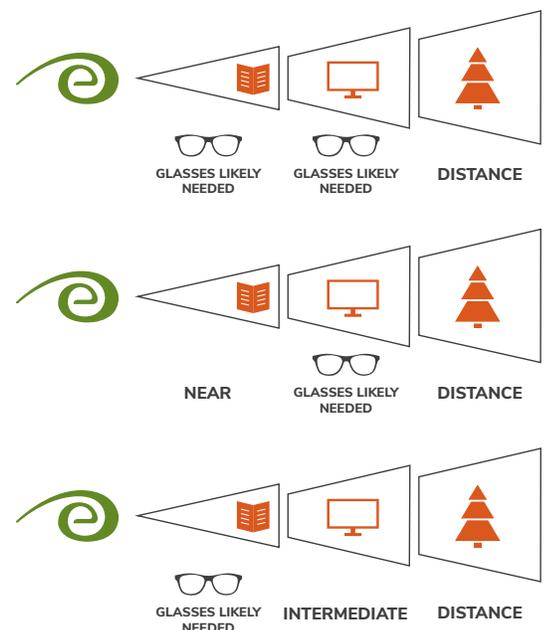
What are the risks of cataract surgery? While cataract removal is one of the most common operations performed in the United States and is also one of the safest, all surgeries have risks. The surgeon will review all the risks, benefits, and alternatives with you at your consultation.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION GOAL?

Monofocal IOL's are used to restore vision at one area of focus, typically distance. Postoperatively, glasses and bifocals are expected to be needed at all times, to see the very best.

Multifocal IOL's provide high-quality distance and near vision, and are designed to increase freedom from glasses. Postoperatively, patients typically wear glasses for intermediate vision. Halos around lights at night are expected, and diminish in 3-6 months for most patients.

Extended Depth of Focus IOL's provide high-quality continuous distance and intermediate vision, and are designed to increase freedom from glasses. Postoperatively, patients typically need readers for small print. Halos around lights are expected and diminish in 3-6 months for most patients.



YOUR SURGERY

Your Consultation: Your consultation in our office is an essential part of evaluating you for cataract surgery. You will meet with one of our skilled surgeons, who will conduct a thorough exam along with specialty measurements. If you feel your cataracts are impacting your daily activities, such as driving at night, we will discuss the surgical options available and any other ocular findings that may impact your expected visual outcome. **This is a DILATED exam** that will last about two hours, and we prefer that someone accompany you to your appointment.

Your Surgery: On the day of your surgery, you will need a designated driver. The procedure is done at our surgery center on an outpatient basis. The procedure itself is only 10-15 minutes, however, you will be at the surgery center for up to **2 hours**. Our center offers the most advanced cataract surgery and recovery in the region.

HOURS & EMERGENCIES

If you are a patient of our practice and experience an eye emergency, such as an injury to the eye, significant eye pain, or sudden vision loss, you should contact our office immediately. If it is after hours, you may call the office phone number to reach our 24-hour answering service to reach the on-call physician.

BOARD CERTIFIED SURGEONS & SPECIALTY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

At Empire Eye Physicians, your vision is our highest priority. We are a team of experienced physicians and health care professionals who are dedicated to providing you with world-class vision care. Your unique needs will always determine the best course of action, and we believe communication is key, where we listen to your concerns, explain your conditions and discuss any treatments and therapies available.

Mark Kontos, M.D. Christopher Sturbaum, M.D. Casey Claypool, O.D. Ali Heaton, O.D.

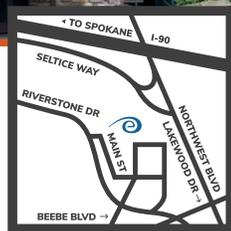
OUR LOCATIONS



Coeur d'Alene Office

2175 N. Main St. (Riverstone)
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

(208) 664-9888



Spokane Valley Office

1414 N. Houk Rd., Suite 103
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For more information, please visit our website at EmpireEye.com or call for a cataract consultation at (509) 928-8040.