

## 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. For insurance covered IOL's, coverage is dependent on the plan.



## VISION PACKAGES

**Vision Package 1 - Laser-assisted monofocal IOL:** Guaranteed best distance or near vision IOL with astigmatism correction.

**Vision Package 2 - Laser-assisted presbyopia correcting IOL:** Provides high quality distance and near vision, and designed to increase freedom from glasses. Halos around lights at night 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 (CONT.)

**Your Surgery:** 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**. We require surgical patients to have a designated friend or family member drive you to and from the surgery center, as well as to care for you the remainder of the day. You will have a post-operative appointment the next day for a follow-up visit and a driver to this visit is recommended. Our center offers the most advanced cataract surgery and recovery in the region.



## AFTER CATARACT SURGERY - YAG POSTERIOR CAPSULOTOMY

**Laser procedure available for cataract followup:** A posterior capsulotomy is a surgical laser procedure that may be necessary after cataract surgery. During cataract surgery, part of the front (anterior) capsule that holds the lens is removed. The clear back (posterior) capsule remains intact. As long as that capsule stays clear, one has good vision.

**Sometimes the posterior capsule needs attention:** In 30 to 50 percent of people, the posterior capsule loses its clarity. When this happens, an opening can be made in the capsule with a laser (posterior capsulotomy) to restore normal vision. Before the laser procedure, your doctor does a thorough eye examination to make sure there is no other reason for vision loss. A posterior capsulotomy is painless and takes five minutes. Eye pressure may be taken after the operation to make sure it is not elevated. Potential but rare complications following laser posterior capsulotomy are increased intraocular pressure and retinal detachment.



## 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.



## OUR LOCATIONS

### Coeur d'Alene Office

2175 N. Main St.  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814  
(208) 664-9888



### Spokane Valley Office

16010 E. Indiana Ave.  
Spokane Valley, WA 99216  
(509) 928-8040



For more information, please visit our website at [EmpireEye.com](http://EmpireEye.com) or call for a cataract consultation at (509) 928-8040.