



## PREPARING FOR YOUR CATARACT SURGERY BEFORE / DURING /AFTER

You have been scheduled for eye surgery. You should have a date for your surgery from your coordinator at Eyesight. We cannot provide you a time for your surgery, as this is set up by the surgery center. Please note: We do not have any control over your arrival time at the surgery center.

Only one eye is done at a time, so if you are having both eyes done, you will have 2 separate surgery dates, as well as separate follow up appointments.

**ARRIVAL TIME:** You will be contacted by the surgery center the day before your procedure with your expected arrival time. **If you have not heard from the surgery center by the afternoon prior to your procedure, please contact them directly at 603-314-8035 to get your time.**

**AFTER SURGERY APPOINTMENTS:** You will have 2 appointments following your surgery. One will be either the day of your surgery or the day after. The second appointment is generally within a month after surgery. These dates are scheduled at the same time as your cataract procedure.

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### PRIOR TO CATARACT SURGERY

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**PRE-SURGICAL EYE DROPS** – After cataract surgery, patients are often instructed to instill multiple prescription drops to prevent infection, inflammation, and pain, and each drop is on a different schedule. This can be confusing, and can lead to non-compliance. We have compounded your multiple eyedrops into one prescription called Imprimis and it contains all the prescriptions you need!

**NOTE: All prescriptions or Imprimis eyedrops will need to be picked up PRIOR to surgery.** The specially compounded IMPRIMIS eyedrop can be purchased at the front desk at any Eyesight location during normal business hours.

- **Beginning 1 hour BEFORE YOU LEAVE HOME, (regardless of how long it takes you to get to the surgery center)** use the IMPRIMIS eyedrops every 15 minutes for a total of 4 times. i.e, if you are leaving home at 9:00am, you would use the IMPRIMIS eyedrops at 8:00, 8:15, 8:30 and 8:45. Note: Shake eye drop bottle well prior to use. Note that it is only necessary to use 1 drop at a time from the bottle regardless of what the package insert says.
- Bring your eye drops and Surgery Drop Schedule to all follow-up appointments.
- Please follow the eye drop chart you were given at the time of booking.

**If you are using PRESCRIBED eyedrops (NOT IMPRIMIS eyedrops), please follow the eyedrop instructions supplied to you by your surgical coordinator.**

If prescribed, **START XIIDRA, RESTASIS or CEQUA** on: \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ eye only.

- Use **1 drop, 2 times per day** (morning and evening). **Note:** One vial should be used for a maximum of 2 days, regardless of the instructions from the pharmacy. Stop the Xiidra or Restasis once you start the pre-surgical drops

## **SURGERY PREPARATION**

- **You must have** responsible adult designated to accompany you to and from surgery. You will be asked to identify this person prior to surgery.
  - **On the night before surgery, or the morning of, take a bath or shower and wash your hair thoroughly.** In the morning, wash your face with soap and water. Please make sure you remove all mascara or eyeliner.
  - **DO NOT EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING AFTER MIDNIGHT THE NIGHT BEFORE SURGERY!**
  - **Take your usual morning medications with a sip of water.** If you take **INSULIN or DIABETIC medication**, the intake nurse from the surgery center will provide instructions on how and when to take your medication. As always, bring your insulin with you to surgery.
  - **Bring sunglasses, glasses, your surgery bag, and eye drops with you to surgery.**
- Wear loose-fitting clothing, slip on shoes (no boots), and a BUTTON-DOWN SHIRT to your surgery.** Do not wear makeup, jewelry, nail polish, hairspray, perfume/cologne, or lotions. Deodorant is fine.
- **There are no medication restrictions for cataract surgery.** You may continue taking aspirin products, Coumadin, Plavix, etc., unless otherwise directed by your surgeon.

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## **DURING CATARACT SURGERY**

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You must have a responsible adult designated to accompany you to and from surgery. You will be at the surgery center for 1-2 hours.

After check in, you will then be brought to the “short stay” area of the operating room. Many people, (doctors and nurses alike) will speak with you and several consent forms must be signed.

An intravenous line will be placed in your arm and several eye drops will be placed in your eye(s). You will then be brought to the operating room and you will be given oxygen and given medication through an intravenous line to relax you.

You will be partially sedated during the procedure. The eye and skin around the eye will be cleaned and a drape will be placed over your body exposing only the operated eye. The actual procedure is usually brief – roughly 20 minutes. After surgery, the operated eye will be covered with an eye shield or a pair of sunglasses. Recovery is fairly quick and, once cleared by the medical team, you will be ready to go home and rest.

You will have an appointment shortly after surgery and then a few weeks to a month later. You will need to pick up your prescriptions at your pharmacy or IMPRIMIS eyedrops at our office prior to surgery. You will take these drops in the operated eye for at least 4 weeks.

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## AFTER CATARACT SURGERY

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1. We prefer that you refrain from most activities for the rest of the day, and that someone stays with you until the day after surgery. Your eye may be slightly sore, itchy, scratchy, or feel like it is very teary.
2. Your vision may be blurry the day of surgery, and it may take several days for your vision to clear. If your eye is patched, we prefer that you keep the eye patch on, unless otherwise directed.
3. If you are having both eyes done within a short period of time, you may notice one eye healing more quickly and seeing better at a faster rate. This is not unusual. You may also need glasses to improve your vision for distance as well as up-close.
4. Eye protection is recommended outdoors (sunglasses or glasses) and a shield at bedtime for **1 week**. Use your own discretion when indoors. Your surgeon assures you that no harm will come to your eyes if you choose to wear your "old" glasses.
  - a. Daytime – regular glasses or sunglasses
  - b. Bedtime/Naps – Eye Shield
5. No restrictions on bathing, showering, shampooing hair, having a permanent, or drying your hair, BUT **NO swimming** underwater for 3 weeks. **No eye makeup** for one week.
6. **YOU MAY** travel in an airplane, read, and watch T.V.
7. **YOU MAY** bend over to put on shoes, socks, or pick up things (NOT OVER 35lbs.)
8. **YOU MAY** sleep in any position.
9. Occasionally, your vision may be good enough to drive as soon as the day after surgery. Ask your surgeon if you are not sure. Please be aware that your eye will likely stay dilated for 1 to 2 days after surgery.
10. Please refrain from any vigorous physical activity that might increase your chances of falling and hitting your "operated" eye (such as skiing, skating, tennis, etc.) for **1 WEEK**. It is okay for you to take a walk or play golf as long as you are wearing eye protection. If you are unsure, please ask.
11. It is not unusual to experience watering, a foreign body or a scratchy sensation for the first few weeks after surgery as the eye heals. It will improve with time. While it is okay to use lubricant eye drops, i.e. "artificial tears", please **do not begin using them until at least 1 week after surgery.**
12. **PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** if you experience sudden intense pain or a dramatic change of vision in the "operated" eye.

<h3>MEDICATIONS</h3>
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1. Most patients will be prescribed a special combination drop called Imprimis. This drop contains a combination of 3 eyedrops - Prednisolone Acetate, Moxifloxacin and Nepafenac. **You can pick up your eyedrops at any Eyesight office during normal business hours.**
  - **Note:** if you are allergic to any of the medication in the Imprimis eyedrops, our office

will call a different set of prescriptions into your pharmacy.

2. **After surgery, you will use 1 drop of your Imprimis eyedrops in the operated eye 4 times per day (8am, 12pm, 4pm, 8pm)** for 14 days, then 2 times per day (once in the morning and once at night). Use this drop for a **minimum of 4 WEEKS** after surgery. Your surgeon will inform you of any changes in the length of time or frequency to use your eyedrops.
3. Bring your eye drops and Surgery Drop Schedule to all follow-up appointments.
4. If you do not have enough drops to last at least 4 weeks, **stop into any Eyesight office location** to purchase more. If you have a pharmacy prescription, a refill is already available at your pharmacy.
5. For those patients who are on **Restasis or Xiidra or Cequa**: Please resume these drops **AFTER** surgical drops are gone.
  - **2 times per day** until gone in the operated eye(s).
  - One vial should be used for a maximum of 1 or 2 days regardless of the instructions you receive from the pharmacy or on the package.