

Frequently asked questions

1. How long before I can drive?

Usually between 3-7 days after the surgery. However please check with Dr Phipps prior to driving.

2. How long before I can get new glasses?

Between 4-6 weeks after your surgery.

3. How long should I take off work/sport/swimming etc?

You will need to take approximately 7 days off work, sport and swimming. Dr Phipps can provide a sick certificate for this period.

4. Do I need to use any drops?

Yes. On discharge you will be given instructions along with drops to use for 1 month after the surgery.

5. Do I need someone with me on the day?

Yes. You will need a support person to transport you from the day surgery after the procedure. You are advised to have someone with you for the first 24 hours.



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**Important
information about
Femtosecond Laser
for Cataract Surgery**



What is Femtosecond Laser for Cataract Surgery?

Femtosecond lasers have been used in ophthalmic surgery for many years; however their use in cataract surgery is a more recent innovation of about 5 years. It is now available in Adelaide for cataract surgery at the Tennyson Day Hospital unit. The surgery is performed in a day surgery theatre and lasts approximately 15-20 minutes. During this procedure the natural lens is removed in pieces and replaced with an artificial lens.

What do I need to do if I have a cataract?

You will need to discuss your options and decide if you wish to proceed with surgery. There are no non surgery options to remove a cataract.

How is the cataract removed?

It is a two stage process:

1. Small incisions are made in the cornea and cataract with the Femtosecond laser.
2. The cataract is then removed with a standard phacoemulsification probe and an artificial lens implanted.

What are the advantages of Femtosecond laser cataract surgery over standard cataract surgery?

Safety

Incising the cornea and cataract with Femtosecond laser reduces the risk of surgeon error. Laser-assisted cataract surgery has the potential to reduce the energy and time used during standard cataract surgery. This ensures a faster and gentler approach leading to quicker visual recovery and less damage to the delicate structures inside the eye.

Better optical outcomes

There is a growing body of evidence to suggest better vision can be achieved, particularly with multifocal lens implants, when using the new Femtosecond laser system of cataract surgery.

Does the procedure cost more than standard cataract surgery?

Yes. The increased cost relates to the need to use a disposable patient interface device that makes the Femtosecond laser possible.

What type of artificial lens do I choose?

There are many choices to be made depending on your needs. Dr Phipps will discuss these with you. Your reliance on glasses may diminish.

What will happen after the procedure?

Your eye will remain covered after the procedure for approximately 24 hours. You will be given an appointment to see Dr Phipps the following day at the Goodwood Eye Centre.

What are the risks of cataract surgery?

Dr Phipps will discuss the risks with you in detail.

While the success rate of cataract surgery is very high and generally 99%, very rarely infections, bleeding or retinal detachment can occur leading to permanent visual loss.

In very rare cases it may not be possible to:

- remove the entire cataract
- place an artificial lens in the eye
- improve the vision as much as hoped
- avoid unwanted visual side effects.

All of the above mentioned complications may require additional surgery.

As a late complication, scar tissue can form behind the lens implant, decreasing vision and requiring Laser Posterior Capsulotomy to remedy it.

What is the expected recovery time?

Usually 7 days.