

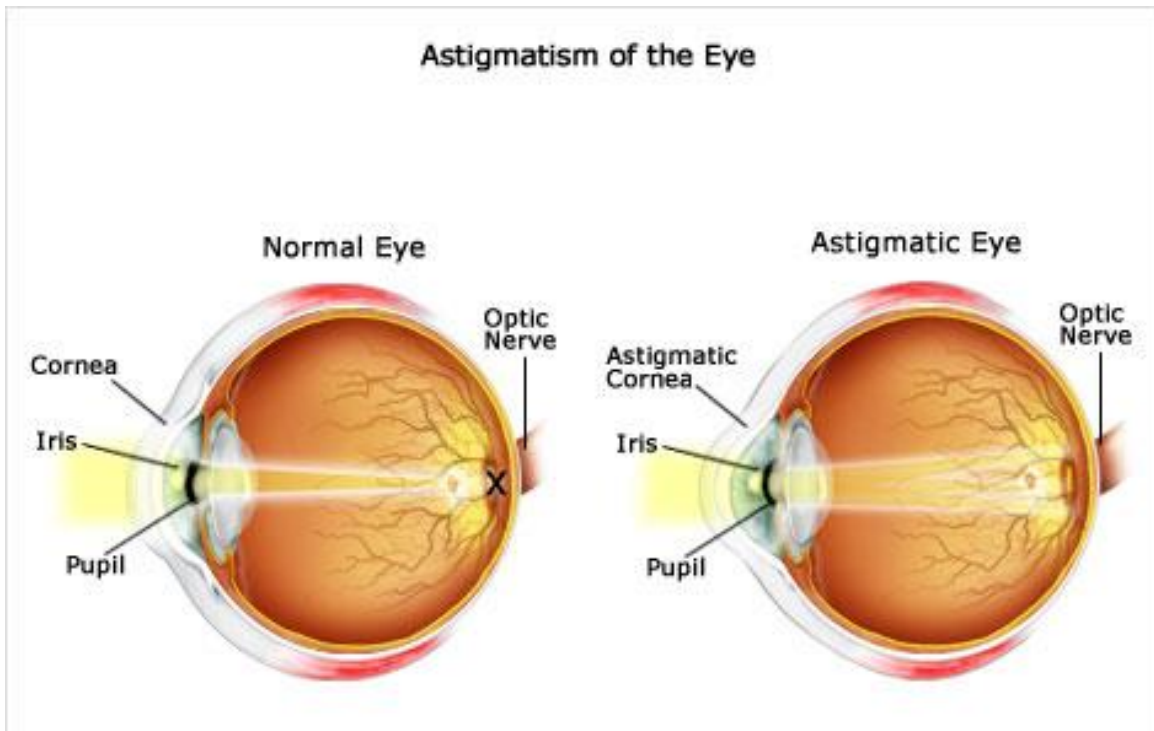
Cataracts affect more than 22 million Americans. Cataract surgery is one of the most commonly performed procedures today. A cataract forms when the lens of the eye becomes clouded and reduces the passage of light to the retina. The result is distorted and blurry vision or faded colors. The only effective treatment is surgery to remove the clouded lens. Cataract surgery can offer improved vision, and is one of the safest and most effective procedures performed today. If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, it could be an indication it's time to consider cataract surgery:

- When driving, there's too much glare from the sun or headlights
- You are having problems seeing well enough to read, sew or watch tv
- You have trouble following a golf ball
- Your vision doesn't improve sufficiently when wearing glasses

While all human eyes share the same basic structure, every eye is just a bit different in terms of size, depth, curvature of cornea and other key features. Every eye must be carefully measured and mapped prior to cataract surgery. These images, measurements and data they provide are then used to plan and perform a personalized treatment.

Cataract surgery is generally a simple outpatient procedure with little discomfort, requiring only a few hours and a topical anesthetic. The goal of the operation is to break the cloudy lens into pieces, remove the pieces and insert a man made lens.

The purpose of today's visit is to determine if removing your cataracts will improve your vision, to discuss how the lens will be removed and choose a lens that best suits your lifestyle. Keep in mind removing your natural lens and implanting a standard man made lens greatly reduces your ability to see up close without glasses.



Simply by having your cataract removed and an implant (IOL) placed your vision will improve. Most patients that require glasses after cataract surgery for their driving or distance vision have treatable astigmatism. Astigmatism is caused by an irregular curvature of the cornea or lens. The shape is more like a football than a basketball. If left untreated, it affects your vision at all ranges and hampers the ability to see fine details. Full time use of glasses will be necessary to achieve clear vision. Near, distance and intermediate vision is distorted because light rays are not focused on a single spot on the retina.

Dr. Kelly is using Femtosecond laser technology during cataract surgery to treat astigmatism. By using the laser's computer guided imaging, Dr. Kelly can safely reduce a patient's corneal astigmatism. With exacting precision the laser creates small incisions to smooth out the shape of the cornea. For patients that have large amounts of astigmatism or are not candidates for laser, Dr. Kelly also recommends Toric IOL's to correct astigmatism. These lenses are used in place of a standard IOL. In some cases, both advances can be used.

At Kelly Eye Center, we believe that having a voice in your surgical treatment along with a choice in the type of IOL you receive can help you achieve your best personal vision.