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Welcome to the Azar Eye Clinic and Laser & Surgery Center of Acadiana -- providers of quality eye care for Acadiana and the surrounding area for over 50 years. We live in a time in which cataract surgery is undergoing many remarkable advancements. We continue our pledge to quality care by now offering our cataract patients the most advanced and up-to-date surgical technology.

This cataract packet was prepared to help you in making your decision regarding your cataract surgery options. There are now 2 parts of cataract surgery that can be improved above and beyond traditional cataract surgery: (1) How the cataract is removed (traditional vs Laser), and (2) Lens implant options (standard vs Advanced Technology).

(1) How the cataract is removed (Traditional vs Laser):

A cataract is a change in the natural lens of the eye that causes clouding or blurring of vision over time. Cataract surgery is the removal of this cloudy lens. Traditional cataract surgery is performed using blades to make incisions on the surface of the eye. Through these incisions, the surgeon makes a small opening in the capsule surrounding the cataract. The cataract is then broken into pieces and removed from the eye by vacuum. Lastly, a new and clear lens implant is placed into the eye.

Laser assisted cataract surgery enhances many of the crucial steps of cataract surgery by using a special FDA approved laser to perform the following: (1) laser incisions, (2) laser capsule opening, (3) laser softening or division of the cataract, and (4) laser correction of low amounts of astigmatism. LenSx customized laser cataract surgery offers increased precision, reproducibility, faster recovery, and is also able to correct low amounts of astigmatism.

(2) Lens implant options (Standard vs Advanced Technology):

The lens implant (called an intraocular lens or IOL) comes in 2 main types: standard IOLs (also called monofocal), and Advanced Technology IOLs (available with or without astigmatism correction).

Standard IOLs provide clear vision at only one distance, similar to the distance portion of glasses. Advanced technology IOLs provide additional benefits above and beyond standard IOLs. The benefits of Advanced Technology IOLs include full correction of astigmatism and/or reducing dependency on reading glasses by also providing some level of intermediate and/or near vision.

This is a very important decision. You will be looking through these lenses for the rest of your life and we want you to choose the option(s) that will help you regain your lifestyle and what you love to do most. We are proud to be the first provider in Acadiana to offer the newest Advanced Technology IOL, the Alcon PanOptix IOL.

Please read and fill out the included Vision and Lifestyle Survey which will assist your eye surgeon in selecting the best IOL to meet your lifestyle needs. In addition, we have included IOL implant brochures that describe your IOL options and the type of vision that each lens implant can provide. Please read this material carefully and discuss your surgery and IOL options with family and friends. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for trusting us with your vision. We truly care about you and will do everything possible to help you see clearly once again.

Patient Lifestyle Questionnaire



Patient Name: _____

Have you ever worn soft or hard contact lenses ?	Yes	No

Are you currently wearing soft or hard contact lenses ?

Have you tried monovision (one eye distance and one eye reading)?

Have you ever considered LASIK surgery?	Yes	No

Have you ever had refractive surgery (LASIK, PRK, surface ablation, etc)?

What is (or was) your occupation? _____

Please circle the following activities you do on a regular basis:

Read Newspapers/Books	Drive – Nighttime	Play a Musical Instrument	Use Cell Phone
Read Medicine Bottles	Shop	Dine in Restaurants	Watch Movies in Theatre
Needlepoint/Sew	Play Tennis	Bicycle	Photography
Crossword Puzzles	Hunt or Fish	Play Cards/Dominos	Cook
Participate in Water Sports	Paint/Draw	Use the Computer	Paperwork/Writing
Drive – Daytime	Watch Spectator Sports	Golf	Visit/Care for Grandchildren

Are you having difficulty with any of the activities listed above as a result of your vision? _____

How many combined hours per day do you spend on a computer, tablet, and/or smartphone? _____

Please share anything else you think might be important about your lifestyle or daily activities: _____

Are there times in your day that you wish you didn't have to wear glasses? Yes No

If yes, explain when: _____

Would you be willing to pay out of pocket (charges not covered by insurance) for reduced dependence on distance and/or reading glasses? Yes No

Patient Signature: _____



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Option #1: Laser Cataract Surgery with Advanced IOL

- Laser assisted cataract surgery
- Advanced IOL implant: Toric, Multifocal, or Multifocal Toric
- Advanced Preoperative Testing

*Includes additional FDA approved technology NOT covered by medical insurance.
** Remaining portion of surgery that is covered by insurance will be filed with your insurance. Deductibles and/or Co-insurance may still apply ***

Option #2: Laser Cataract Surgery with Basic IOL

- Laser assisted cataract surgery
- Basic Monofocal IOL implant
- Advanced Preoperative Testing

*Includes additional FDA approved technology NOT covered by medical insurance.
** Remaining portion of surgery that is covered by insurance will be filed with your insurance. Deductibles and/or Co-insurance may still apply ***

Option #3: Standard Cataract Surgery with Toric IOL

- Standard cataract surgery performed manually
- Toric IOL implant (corrects moderate to high amounts of astigmatism)
- Advanced Preoperative Testing

*Includes additional FDA approved technology NOT covered by medical insurance.
** Remaining portion of surgery that is covered by insurance will be filed with your insurance. Deductibles and/or Co-insurance may still apply ***

Option #4: Standard Cataract Surgery with Basic IOL

- Standard cataract surgery performed manually
- Basic Monofocal IOL implant

INFORMED CONSENT FOR CATARACT SURGERY

WHAT IS A CATARACT AND HOW IS IT TREATED?

The lens in the eye can become cloudy and hard, a condition known as a cataract. Cataracts can develop from normal aging, from an eye injury, or if you have taken medications known as steroids. Cataracts may cause blurred vision, dulled vision, sensitivity to light and glare, and/or ghost images. If the cataract changes vision so much that it interferes with your daily life, the cataract may need to be removed. Surgery is the only way to remove a cataract. You can decide not to have the cataract removed. If you don't have the surgery, your vision loss from the cataract will continue to get worse.

HOW WILL REMOVING THE CATARACT AFFECT MY VISION?

The goal of cataract surgery is to correct the decreased vision that was caused by the cataract. During the surgery, the ophthalmologist (eye surgeon) removes the cataract and puts in a new artificial lens called an intraocular lens or IOL. Cataract surgery will not correct other causes of decreased vision, such as glaucoma, diabetes, or age-related macular degeneration. Most people still need to wear glasses or contact lens after cataract surgery for either near and/or distance vision and astigmatism.

WHAT TYPES OF IOLs ARE AVAILABLE?

Your ophthalmologist will help you decide on the type of IOL that will replace your cloudy lens. There are IOLs available to treat nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia), and astigmatism. IOLs usually provide either near or distance vision: these single focus lenses are called monofocal IOLs. Some newer IOLs can provide for near, intermediate, and distance vision: these multiple focus lenses are called multifocal IOLs. IOLs that treat astigmatism are called toric IOLs. You can also have one eye corrected for near vision, and the other for distance vision, a choice called monovision.

WHAT IS ASTIGMATISM? ARE THERE OTHER TREATMENTS FOR IT?

Patients with nearsightedness and farsightedness often also have astigmatism. An astigmatism is caused by an irregularly shaped cornea; instead of being round like a basketball, the cornea is shaped like a football. This can make your vision blurry. In addition to toric IOLs, astigmatism can be reduced by glasses, contact lenses, and refractive surgery (LASIK or PRK). There is also a procedure called a limbal relaxing incision (LRI), which can be done at the same time as the cataract operation, or as a separate procedure. A limbal relaxing incision (LRI) is a small cut or incision the ophthalmologist makes into your cornea to make its shape rounder. Any attempt at astigmatism reduction could result in over- or under-correction, in which case glasses, contact lenses, or another procedure may be needed.

WHAT ARE THE MAJOR RISKS OF CATARACT SURGERY?

All operations and procedures are risky and can result in unsuccessful results, complications, injury, or even death, from both known and unknown causes. The major risks of cataract surgery include, but are not limited to bleeding; infection; injury to parts

of the eye and nearby structures from the anesthesia, the operation itself, or pieces of the lens that cannot be removed; high eye pressure; a detached retina, and a droopy eyelid. The major risks of a limbal relaxing incision are similar to those for cataract surgery, but also include loss of vision, damage to the cornea, and scarring; under- or over-correction could occur.

Depending upon your eye and the type of IOL, you may have increased night glare or halos, double vision, ghost images, impaired depth perception, blurry vision, and trouble driving at night. The ophthalmologist might not be able to put in the IOL you choose. In addition, the IOL may later need to be repositioned or replaced.

Depending upon the type of anesthesia, other risks are possible, including cardiac and respiratory problems, and, in rare cases, death.

There is no guarantee that cataract surgery or astigmatism reduction will improve your vision. As a result of the surgery and/or anesthesia, it is possible that your vision could be made worse. In some cases, complications may occur weeks, months or even years later. These and other complications may result in poor vision, total loss of vision, or even loss of the eye in rare situations. You may need additional treatment or surgery to treat these complications. Possible additional treatments or surgeries could include, but are not limited to, a pars plana vitrectomy (PPV), a complete corneal transplant (PK), or a partial corneal transplant (DSEK). These additional treatments or surgeries may require general anesthesia. These additional treatments or surgeries are not included in the fee for this procedure.

PATIENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF RISKS

I understand that it is impossible for the doctor to inform me of every possible complication that may occur. By signing below, I agree that my doctor has answered all of my questions, that I have been offered a copy of this consent form, and that I understand and accept the risks, benefits, and alternatives of cataract surgery.

Patient (or person authorized to sign for patient)

Date