FAQs of Cataract Surgery

1. When can I schedule my surgery?

We can give you available dates for surgery to choose from on the day of your visit. Surgeries are usually booked between 3-4 weeks from your visit depending on availability.

2. Where is the surgery done?

Cataract surgeries are performed at Retina Associates of New York at 140 E. 80th St and at New York Eye and Ear Infirmary located at 310 East 14th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues.

3. What time do I have to be there?

Surgery time is determined the Friday before your surgery. You will have to arrive 2 hours before your scheduled time and can anticipate being there for approximately 4 hours.

4. Do I stay over night?

Cataract surgery is an ambulatory procedure meaning you are in and out without having to stay over night in the hospital.

5. Will someone need to pick me up?

Yes, since you will be receiving mild anesthesia, you will not be allowed to have the surgery without someone taking you home.

6. Do I have to be on drops? What about my regular medications?

You will be starting antibiotic eye drops prior to your surgery that you will also continue after you have had the procedure. You will also be given drops in the office the day after your surgery that you will need to use. Your regular medications will be discussed on the day of your visit and we will determine if any need to be discussed with your internist.

7. How often do I have to come back?

You will be monitored after surgery for approximately 5 weeks.

8. When will I be able to function? Go back to work?

Most patients are able to function normally and get back to work the next day although some activities may be limited. They include exercise, heavy lifting, and bending down.

9. Can I drive?

Depending on the vision of your other eye, you should be OK to drive within a week after surgery.

10. What about my glasses?

Your prescription will most likely need to be changed after you have had surgery. Once the eye is stable enough to be measured, approximately 4-5 weeks, we will measure for the proper prescription and give it to you.

11. Can I wear my contacts after surgery?

You can wear contacts in the unoperated eye, but will need to be out of contacts in the operated eye until it is determined that the eye has healed.

12. What can’t I do after my surgery? For how long?

No exercise, heavy lifting, bending down, exposing the eye to soap or water, and eye make up for 7 days. No swimming/ hot tub/ sauna for 3 weeks after

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