

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOLLOWING LENS IMPLANT SURGERY

### **About the surgery/ implant:**

#### **Did I receive a lens implant?**

- Unless your surgeon informed you otherwise, yes. You will have been given a wallet-sized card with the type and strength of lens noted before you left the Surgery Centre. Please keep it in a safe place with your other health records.

#### **What is my implant made of?**

- Almost all lenses we use are foldable acrylic lenses. These lenses have been used world-wide since 1993.

#### **Can my eye reject the implant?**

- There have been no documented cases of rejection of the acrylic lenses.

#### **How long will my implant last?**

- Your implant is intended to last for the rest of your life. Lenses that have been used since the early 1980's have not required replacement.

#### **What holds my lens implant in place?**

- The lens implant is positioned inside a membranous pouch behind your iris. The lens has fine "arms" that extend from its sides and push out against the walls of the pouch. As recovery progresses, the pouch contracts around the lens holding it even more securely. You cannot feel the lens inside the eye.

#### **Was a laser used to remove my natural lens?**

- No. Your natural lens was dissolved with ultrasound and rinsed from the eye.

### **About recovery:**

#### **Why does it feel like something is in my eye after surgery?**

- The opening your surgeon made at the time of surgery is slightly swollen and irritated for a day or two after surgery. It is normal for it to feel as though you have a hair in your eye at that point. It will subside within a day or two.

**Is it normal for my eye drops to sting when I put them in?**

- Yes, especially for the first day or two. The opening your surgeon made in your eye remains extra sensitive when you put drops in and even later, the chemical qualities of some medications continue to cause stinging.
- You cannot eliminate it but you may minimize it by making sure your eyes stay well lubricated with artificial tear drops. If this is a problem for you, we recommend a product called Refresh tears, available without prescription and usually found in the Contact Lens Department at pharmacies. You may use artificial tears as frequently as you wish but remember to avoid using them for ½ hour prior to your scheduled medicated drops, as the artificial tears may form a barrier to absorption of medicated drops. The barrier does not last more than ½ hour.

**I noticed a red spot of blood on the white of my eye after surgery. Should I be worried?**

- Fine blood vessels on the surface of the white part of the eye can sometimes leak, or bleed at the time of surgery. Although it may be cosmetically disturbing to you, it is not dangerous and will not affect your vision. It usually reabsorbs within 3 weeks.

**My eyelashes feel “gummy” and look crusty after my drops. What can I do?**

- Medicated drops or artificial tears can create a build-up along your lashline. This build-up should be cleansed before continuing with the next set of drops. Using a fresh facecloth, moisten it with warm water and gently place it over your eye area like a warm compress. This will soften the build-up. After a minute, gently wipe your lashline with the edge of the cloth. You can do this the first evening following surgery if you notice a build-up.

**Should I wear my old glasses after surgery?**

- The prescription lens in your old glasses will be too strong for that eye because the lens implant has already corrected your vision from the inside. While it won't cause damage to your eye, it can cause discomfort and headaches. See your optometrist or optician as soon as possible after surgery to have the prescription eyeglass lens from the operative side replaced with a neutral lens. Once vision has stabilized, which is usually 4 – 6 weeks after surgery, your optometrist can provide a new prescription eyeglass lens if any is required.

**Is it normal for vision to be fuzzy right after surgery?**

- Yes. You may have mild swelling on the surface or within the eye that can cause slight blurring for about a week to 10 days following surgery. It should gradually improve over that time.

**Is it normal to see glare and haloes around lights?**

- Mild swelling on the surface or within the eye can create problems with glare and haloes for a week to 10 days. After that time, you should notice improvement. As well, at night or in dim lighting, when your pupil enlarges to let more light in, you may notice haloes. This is because the pupil may be opened wider than the

- lens implant diameter and you may detect blurring at the edge of the lens. This is normal and will resolve as soon as your pupil contracts slightly smaller.
- If you had a PanOptix/ PanOptix Toric lens inserted, you may continue to see fine rings around lights for many months. The design of the lens creates these rings but over time, your body “learns” to overlook the rings. They do not disrupt regular activities.

**How soon can I fly after surgery?**

- There are no restrictions for commercial aircraft, as these have pressurized cabins. We will need to see you at the office the day after surgery and you will want to ask the surgeon for other advice if you plan to fly in small, non-commercial aircraft.

**I see well at a distance but why can't I see clearly to read?**

- Unlike your natural lens, artificial lenses do not have the ability to change shape and prescription power to adjust between distant and near vision. Unless you have a specialized multifocal lens like the PanOptix/PanOptix Toric lens, your lens implant strength is designed to correct distance vision, either with or without astigmatism. Nonprescription reading glasses may be used to magnify print. If you wish to obtain prescription reading glasses instead, we suggest you wait until 4 – 6 weeks following surgery at which time your vision will be fully stable.

**I have the PanOptix/PanOptix Toric lens implant but my vision is not as clear when I look at the computer screen. What should I do?**

- The PanOptix/PanOptix Toric lens is designed to provide functional vision at distant, near points as well as in between.