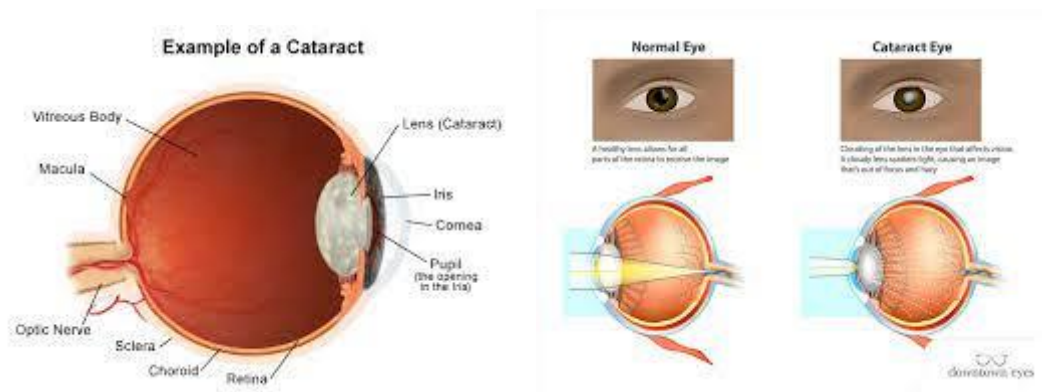


CATARACT

A Cataract is a dense, cloudy area that forms in the lens of the eye .A cataract begins when proteins in the eye form clumps that prevent the lens from sending clear images to the retina. The retina works by converting the light that comes through the lens into signals. It send signals to the optic nerve , which carries them to brain.

Most cataracts develop slowly and don't disturb your eyesight early on. But with time, cataracts will eventually interfere with your vision. At first, stronger lighting and eyeglasses can help you deal with cataracts. But if impaired vision interferes with your usual activities ,you might need cataract surgery. Fortunately, cataract surgery is generally a safe, effective procedure.



DIFFERENT TYPES OF CATARACT

- 1.Cataracts affecting the center of the lens(nuclear cataracts):** A nuclear cataract may at first cause more near sightedness or even a temporary improvement in your reading vision. But with time, the lens gradually turns more densely yellow and further clouds your vision.
- 2.Cataracts that affect the edges of the edges of the lens(cortical cataracts):** A cortical cataract begins as whitish, wedge-shaped opacities or streaks on the outer edge of the lens cortex. As it slowly progresses, the streaks extend to the center and interfere with light passing through the center of the lens.
- 3.Cataracts that affect the back of the lens (posterior subcapsular cataracts):** . A posterior subcapsular cataract starts as a small, opaque area tha cataract usually forms near the back of the lens, right in the path of light. A posterior subcapsular cataract often interferes with your reading vision, reduces your vision in bright light, and causes glare or halos around lights at night.
- 4.Cataracts you're born with (congenital Cataracts):** These cataracts may be genetic, or associated with an intrauterine infection or trauma. These cataracts may also be due to certain conditions, such as myotonic dystrophy, galactosemia, neurofibromatosis type 2 or rubella. Congenital cataracts don't always affect vision, but if they do, they're usually removed soon after detection.

SYMPTOMS:

- blurry vision
- trouble seeing at night
- seeing colours as faded
- increased sensitivity to glare
- halos surrounding lights
- double vision in the affected eye
- a need for frequent changes in prescription glasses

DIAGNOSIS:

Your doctor will perform a comprehensive eye exam to check for cataracts and to assess your vision. This will include an eye chart test to check your vision at different distances and tonometry to measure your eye pressure. The most common tonometry test uses a painless puff of air to flatten your cornea and test your eye pressure. Your doctor will also put drops in your eyes to make your pupils bigger. This makes it easier to check the optic nerve and retina at the back of your eye for damage. Other tests your doctor might perform include checking your sensitivity to glare and your perception of colours.