

Cataract SURGERY

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Tim McLaughlin, MD

He has performed thousands of cataract surgeries, utilizing the latest innovations to bring advanced cataract surgical care to Northwest Florida.

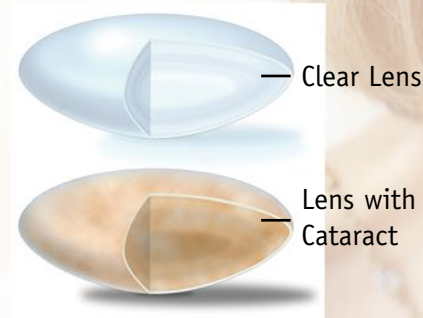
In addition to state-of-the-art medical care, the staff at The Eye Institute caters to your comfort and well-being by providing a kind, gentle touch in a positive, friendly atmosphere.



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What is a Cataract?

A cataract is a cloudiness that develops in the normally clear lens of the eye. It usually progresses and eventually diminishes the amount of light that enters the eye. Cataracts can cause glare, blurred vision, or distorted vision. When the clear lens becomes cloudy or opaque, it is called a cataract.



Most cataracts develop slowly over time and may take several years before seriously affecting a person's vision. Young patients or those with diabetes may experience a more rapid progression in the development of cataracts. Although most cataracts are age-related, other factors, such as an injury to the eye, a birth defect, or radiation may also lead to the development of cataracts.



Clear Lens vs. Clouded Lens

Cataract Symptoms

These are some of the symptoms most commonly associated with the onset of cataracts:

- Blurred vision
- Double vision
- Poor night vision
- Colors appear faded or yellowish
- Difficulty reading
- Glare from bright lights

Cataract Treatment

The discovery of a developing cataract usually occurs during the course of a routine eye exam. If you have cataracts that are causing visual difficulties, your physician will usually recommend surgery, the only known cure for cataracts.

Preoperative Testing

If you are a candidate for surgery, you will undergo preoperative testing which will help determine if there are any other problems that may require attention, such as astigmatism. If necessary, Dr. McLaughlin will treat the astigmatism at the time of surgery. Your eye will be measured using the IOL Master. This device allows more precise visual outcomes so that more patients can see clearly after surgery even without glasses. The Eye Institute has one of the only devices of this type in the Florida panhandle.

Multifocal Lens

Dr. McLaughlin is one of only a few surgeons in the Pensacola area to offer select patients a multifocal lens. This lens allows good overall vision, including distance, intermediate, and near. The standard monofocal lens, which most patients qualify for, enhances distance vision. Your options will be discussed prior to surgery.

Cataract Surgery

Cataract surgery is a simple, yet sophisticated process that involves gently removing the cloudy lens of the eye and replacing it with an artificial lens to restore clear, bright vision.

The first step in the process is numbing the eye. Dr. McLaughlin performs nearly all cataract surgeries using topical anesthesia. In this technique no needle is used, which reduces the chance of bruising and bleeding around the eye; therefore, many patients on blood thinners or aspirin may continue the use of their medications during the surgery process. Our experienced anesthesiologists are dedicated to making you feel relaxed and comfortable during the surgery without having to resort to general anesthesia.

After the tissue around the eye is fully numbed, Dr. McLaughlin makes an incision at the edge of the eye to allow special instruments to reach inside. The procedure, known as phacoemulsification (phaco), uses a tiny probe with a vibrating tip to gently break up the cloudy lens material and suction it away through an incision just 2.4 millimeters in length.

Once the cataract has been removed, a flexible intraocular lens is placed into the eye by folding it and placing it into a small tube (similar to a straw), which guides it into the eye. It slowly unfolds in the capsule that previously surrounded the cataract and the treatment is complete. The opening into the eye is so small that it seals without any sutures.



Intraocular Lens

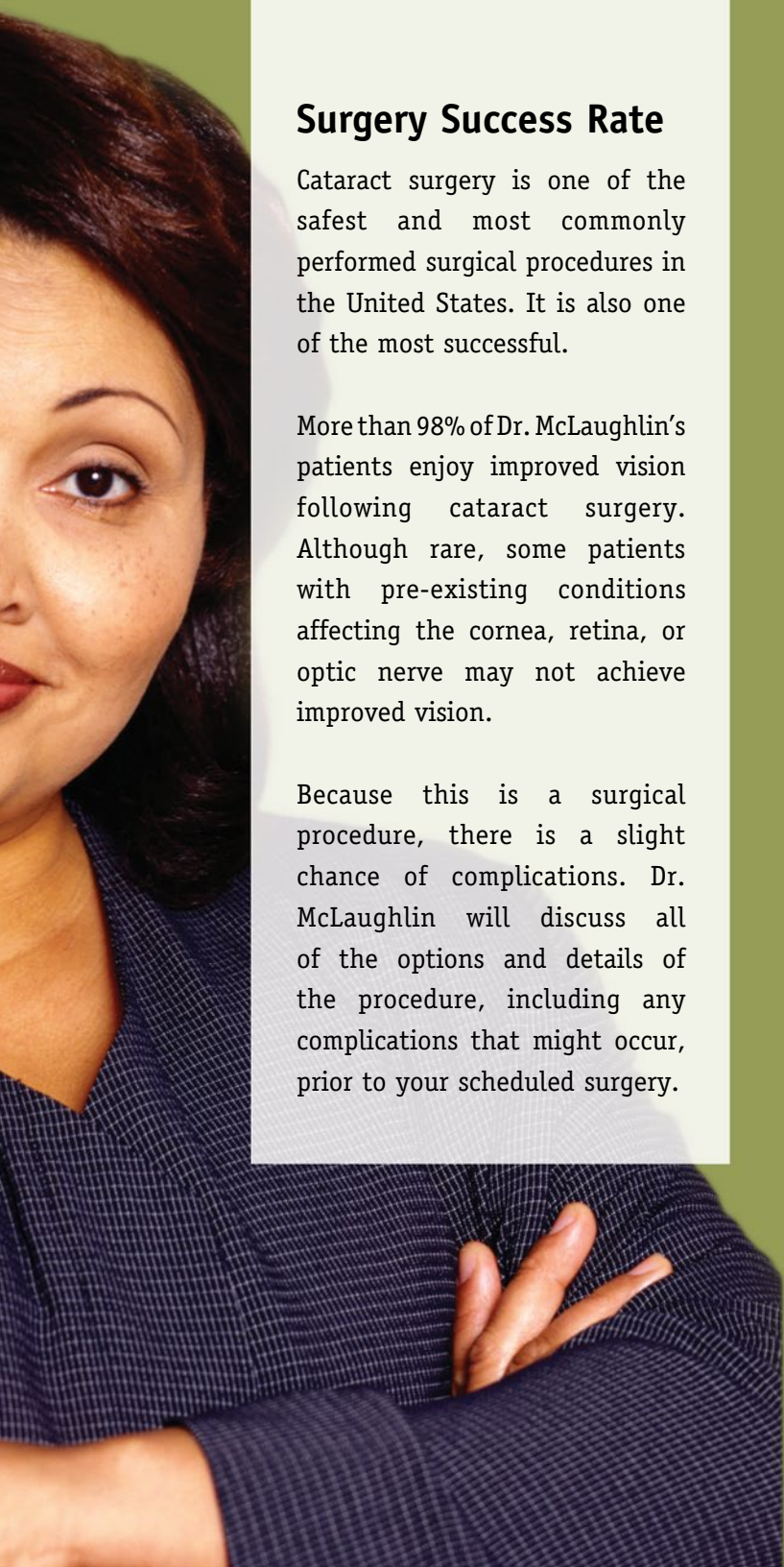


Intraocular Lens Insertion



Phaco Tip Removing the Cataract





Surgery Success Rate

Cataract surgery is one of the safest and most commonly performed surgical procedures in the United States. It is also one of the most successful.

More than 98% of Dr. McLaughlin's patients enjoy improved vision following cataract surgery. Although rare, some patients with pre-existing conditions affecting the cornea, retina, or optic nerve may not achieve improved vision.

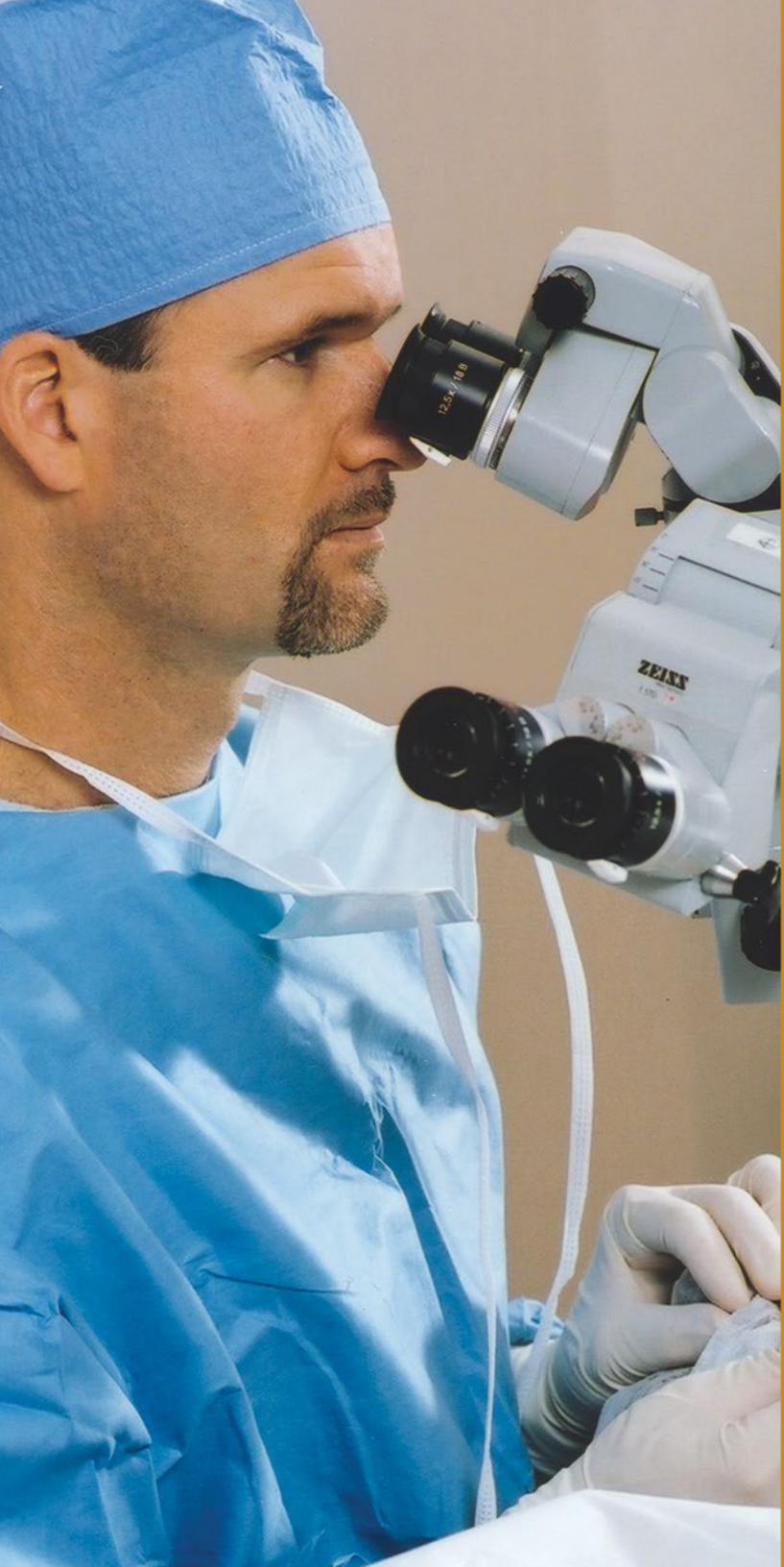
Because this is a surgical procedure, there is a slight chance of complications. Dr. McLaughlin will discuss all of the options and details of the procedure, including any complications that might occur, prior to your scheduled surgery.

What to Expect After Surgery

You will be examined the morning following your surgery and Dr. McLaughlin and his staff will go over your post-operative care. During each of your follow-up visits, he will check to make sure your eyes are functioning properly. For a couple of weeks you will use antibiotic and anti-inflammatory eye drops to help the eye heal and reduce the chance of infection. Although you may want to take things a little easy for a day or so after surgery, you may resume many normal activities almost immediately. Remember that it takes time for the eye to heal completely, and it may be several days before you experience clear vision.

The Future of Cataract Surgery

Dr. McLaughlin was the first surgeon in Northwest Florida to perform cataract surgery through incisions of 1.5 millimeters or less, in preparation for the advent of smaller lenses. As the current trend toward better and smaller lens implants continues, Dr. McLaughlin is committed to providing the very best in advanced technology to better serve patients, now and in the future.



About Dr. McLaughlin

Dr. Tim McLaughlin is the son of a family practice physician. He was born and raised in California. He attended the University of Utah on a basketball scholarship and was twice named a conference scholar-athlete. He played in the 1983 NCAA basketball tournament

After college, Dr. McLaughlin played professional basketball for a short time in Argentina before returning to the University of Utah for medical school. After graduating with honors in 1991, he spent his residency training in ophthalmology at Tulane University in New Orleans. During this time Dr. McLaughlin gained extensive experience in the medical and surgical treatment of eye disease at the Veterans Administration, Tulane University, and Charity hospitals.

In July 1996, Dr. McLaughlin completed a one-year period of intensive study in San Francisco involving surgery of the front of the eye. During this fellowship he gained expertise in small incision cataract surgery and the use of foldable implants, as well as the surgical treatment of glaucoma.

Dr. McLaughlin is a board certified ophthalmologist and is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Tulane University.

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