
If you have any questions before deciding to have an operation, please do not hesitate to ask, either when you are in clinic, or when you attend your pre-assessment appointment.

Alternatively, you can call the number on the front of this leaflet.


Further Information can also be obtained from:

NHS Direct


 08 45 46 47

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Royal College of Ophthalmologists

 020 7935 0702

RNIB Helpline

 0845 766 9999

www.rnib.org.uk

Please use this space to write any notes or questions you may have

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

If you would like to comment on Trust services, have concerns or need information, you can contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). PALS will listen to your views and, using a wide range of contacts and resources, help find ways of resolving any queries or difficulties. The PALS Officers can be contacted at Maidstone or Kent and Sussex Hospitals where the offices are situated in the main entrance, Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 5.00pm, Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm.

Telephone: Maidstone Hospital 01622 224960

Kent & Sussex and Pembury Hospitals 01892 632953

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Maidstone and
Tunbridge Wells



NHS Trust

Making an informed decision about cataract surgery

Information for patients

**Ear, Eye & Mouth Unit
Maidstone Hospital**

Hermitage Lane
Maidstone

☎ 01622 729000

Pembury Hospital

Tonbridge Road
Pembury
Tunbridge Wells

☎ 01892 823535

Cataract surgery

This information leaflet is to help you make an informed decision about having cataract surgery.

A cataract occurs when your natural lens becomes cloudy and prevents light from entering the eye.

When is cataract surgery needed?

Apart from exceptional cases, surgery is only required when you feel that you are not functioning adequately due to poor sight caused by a cataract.

You and your ophthalmologist should decide if and when you should have a cataract operation.

You may decide not to have an operation but continue with glasses or contact lenses. However it is not necessary to wait for the cataract to grow before you have the operation.

What if I decide to have cataract surgery?

If you do decide to have cataract surgery, it is important you understand the following:

- Cataract surgery involves removal of the lens of the eye and in most cases the insertion of an artificial implant that stays in permanently.
 - The surgery is not done by laser, but requires an operation on the eye. The operation is usually performed under a local anaesthetic, which means you are not asleep but the eye is made numb using drops and/or an injection near the eye.
 - Due to technical reasons it is not always possible to insert a lens implant during the cataract operation. A second operation may be needed to insert a lens implant. If this happens your vision will be poor until the next operation can be performed.
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Who will do the operation?

A consultant or a member of his/her team will perform the operation.

Are there any risks or complications?

As with all operations, there is a small risk of complications with cataract surgery, these can include:

- Vision may not be improved, and in some circumstances, vision can become worse than it was before surgery. Occasionally, complete loss of vision in the eye can occur.

Complications can also include:

- Bleeding in the eye
- Infection
- Retinal detachment,
- Dislocation of the lens into the back of the eye and loss of transparency of the cornea.

If such complications occur, further surgery may be required and final vision may be poor.

Following surgery, glasses are still required. The surgeon will try to balance the spectacle prescription of the operated eye with that of the other eye, but this is not always possible.

Over 90% of patients who undergo cataract surgery will benefit from improved vision, although 100% success cannot be guaranteed.

In a small number of patients vision does not improve or worsened vision is experienced. This results from complications during the operation, or because of other eye conditions, such as glaucoma, macula degeneration or diabetes.
