

Types of Premium Lenses for Cataract Surgery

Premium IOLs are of three broad categories:

1. Monofocal Lenses

Monofocal lenses, unlike the natural lens of the eye, can only restore vision for a particular distance, that is for distance, or for near. The power of the monofocal vision. After having a monofocal lens implantation, you will need reading glasses or even bifocals which are glasses for both distance and near, depending on your pre-existing refractive error (especially astigmatism). Below are the various types of monofocal lenses:

- ***Acrysof IQ (Monofocal)***: Acrysof IQ is an imported monofocal lens manufactured by Alcon (USA). These lenses provide excellent vision for distance. For near vision, however, a person may require additional reading glasses. This lens contains a yellow pigment chromatophore which blocks harmful UV rays and the blue rays from entering the eye and damaging the retina.
- ***Aurovue (Monofocal)***: An Indian Company – Aurolab manufactures Aurovue lenses. These lenses are considered as entry-level options for cataract surgery and are recommended for somebody on a low budget.
- ***Acrysof SP (Monofocal)***: Acrysof SP is imported monofocal lens, manufactured by Alcon (USA). These lenses are also preferred in Diabetic Patients. It is also a recommended option for somebody opting for a monofocal lens in Regular Phaco surgery.

2. Multifocal Lenses

Multifocal IOLs are lenses which offer an acceptable restoration of vision for both near and distance. While choosing an IOL, it is important to remember that multifocal lenses provide you freedom from glasses for both near and distance, and can be customized to your active lifestyle. However, your doctor will discuss with you the apparent drawbacks of these lenses, namely glare, and a decrease in contrast sensitivity. In case you do not want to wear glasses for near or distance and do not want to go ahead with the added expense of a multifocal IOL, your doctor will discuss monovision with you. Following are the best multifocal lenses:

- **Alcon Pantopix (Multifocal):** It is the largest introduction in multi-focal lenses. The lens is able to provide excellent vision in for distance, immediate and near.
- **iDiff (Multifocal):** iDiff lenses are multifocal lenses manufactured by Care Group. These lenses provide good vision for near and distance, which means that a person can easily carry out regular day to day activities with distance vision and also do near work such as reading and writing comfortably without use of additional spectacles. iDiff Lenses, however, do not correct intermediate vision.
- **Tridiff (Multifocal):** Tridiff lenses are multifocal lenses manufactured by Care Group. These lenses provide good vision for near, intermediate and distance, which means that a person can easily carry out regular day to day activities with distance vision, also do intermediate distance work such as working on the laptop and also carry out near work such as reading and writing comfortably without the use of additional

3. Toric Lenses

An eye can have two types of power, spherical power which is because of the natural lens within the eye and cylinder power which is because of the dissymmetry in the curve of the cornea. Monofocal and Multifocal Lenses can only correct the spherical component of the eye leaving behind the cylinder power which has to be later corrected by additional prescription glasses. Toric Lenses can correct both spherical and cylinder components of the eye. Toric lenses are recommended if you have a high pre-existing cylinder or astigmatism in your eye. Below are the recommended Toric lenses:

- **Acrysof IQ (Toric):** These lenses are designed to correct astigmatism at the time of cataract surgery. This lens is manufactured by Alcon (USA).
- **Acrysof Toric (Toric):** These lenses have all the properties of Acrysof IQ along with cylinder correction

Which is the best IOL for you?

In medicine, like life, there is no single best answer. Your doctor will discuss with you the potential benefits of each of these lenses, and help you select the one best suited for your lifestyle and visual needs, as well as your expectations from the cataract surgery.

Lifestyle and priorities: In case you have a very active lifestyle that involves a lot of precise focusing outdoors, like golf, you may compromise your near vision but not your distance vision. If you travel a lot, you might prefer to not be dependent on glasses at all, preceding a bit of precision for both near and distance vision. On the other hand, if you enjoy sewing or embroidery, you will want perfect near vision.

Pre-existing diseases: In case of certain eye diseases like advanced glaucoma, corneal disorders or age-related macular degeneration, you may not be a good candidate for specific lenses, like the multifocal lens. Your eye doctor will perform a comprehensive eye exam and discuss its results and implications with you, to help you choose the best possible lens for your eye.

Costs: These lenses are more expensive than traditional IOLs, adding an incremental value to the cost of cataract surgery. The premium lenses come at a price that is usually not covered by insurance companies.

The doctors at Drishti Eye Foundation are well versed in the use of premium IOLs following cataract surgery in Meerut and have had the experience of implanting thousands of these lenses. Your eye doctor will be happy to discuss all the options available and help you choose the best choice for your eye health, and visual needs.