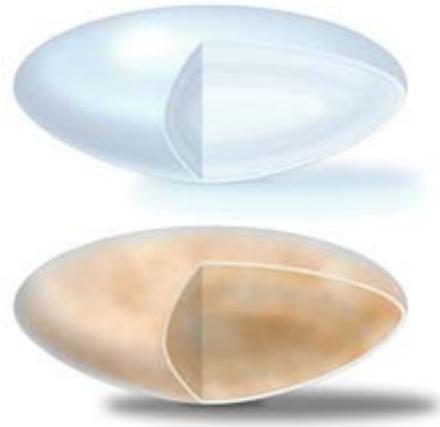


Patient Focus

August 2012

Cataract Awareness

The human eye has two main components which allow light to enter the eye unchanged so that it may be processed into crisp colors and sharp contours, the cornea and the lens.



Cataract is a condition where a normally clear lens becomes cloudy and thus produces a distorted picture. If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, contact your eye doctor to schedule an exam.

- Blurry vision
- Difficulty with night vision or glare
- Diminished color perception
- Double vision

The most prevalent type of cataract is age-related. This type tends to develop over years as the lens hardens and slowly builds up protein deposits. Although the exact cause of age-related cataract development is not known, an estimated 30-50% of the risk is heredity. You may be at a higher risk of developing cataracts if you:

- Smoke
- Use steroid medications

- Suffered an eye injury
- Have diabetes
- Abuse alcoholic beverages
- Have a family history of cataracts

Cataracts can also be caused by therapy with certain drugs or traumatic damage to the lens through physical force. Even some surgical procedures can cause cloudiness at the site of injury and this can extend throughout the entire lens.

There are no medications or eye drops that can make cataracts go away – surgery is the only treatment. The cloudy lens is removed and replaced with an artificial lens.

To see how cataracts can change your vision, check out the vision simulator at:

<http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/diseases/cataracts-simulator.cfm>

Source: www.geteyesmart.org

Cataract Specialists at Penn State Hershey Eye Center

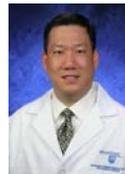
Dr. Ali Aminlari



Dr. Christine Callahan



Dr. David Liang



Dr. Joseph Sassani



Our specialists are all certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology and, combined, have over 60 years of experience in performing cataract surgery.

Did you know . . .



Your dog's or cat's eyes glow in the dark because of tapetum, silver "mirrors", in the back of its eyes. This gives them superior night vision.

Source: www.Nei.nih.gov

What's happening in Eye Care Research?

The Penn State Hershey Eye Center is conducting several clinical trials. If you'd like to volunteer to participate, read more about them at:

<http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/cto/home/current/ophthalmology>



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For an appointment, please call 717-531-5690.