

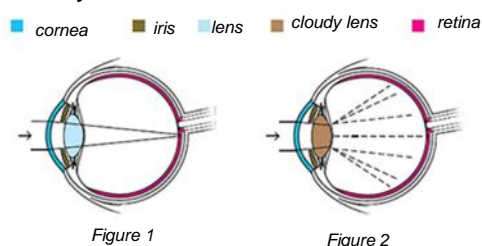
Cataract

This leaflet contains information about cataract. A cataract is a cloudy area in the lens of your eye.

The diagnosis: what is cataract?

Your eye has a clear lens that allows you to have sharp vision (Figure 1). This lens may grow cloudy as you get older. Some people are born with cloudy lenses, and sometimes lenses grow cloudy because of an accident or eye infection. If your lens grows cloudy, your vision will grow blurry because light will have difficulty penetrating your eye (Figure 2). This is called cataract, and the only way to solve the problem is surgery.

The eye



Cataract Centre

Oogziekenhuis Rotterdam has a special place called the Cataract Centre (desk no. 20). This is where all the arrangements for your cataract surgery are made, from the preparations to the aftercare. The Cataract Centre employs medical specialists with a lot of experience of treating cataract.

This is what will happen when you visit the Cataract Centre:

- You will have an intake interview with a nurse.
- Your lens will be measured (oculometry). If you wear rigid contact lenses, stop wearing them at least 4 weeks before the measurement. If you wear soft contact lenses, stop wearing them at least 2 weeks before the measurement. This is important, as contact lenses can change the shape of your eye, which may result in faulty measurement results.
- You will discuss different types of artificial lenses with a lens consultant (surgical counsellor).
- After the operation you will have a check-up.

Our operating theatres

Cataract surgery is performed at two locations in Oogziekenhuis Rotterdam:

- The Outpatients' Clinic (4th floor of Oogziekenhuis Rotterdam)
- The Nursing Ward (2nd floor of Oogziekenhuis Rotterdam)

You will be told where you will undergo surgery during the interview with the nurse.

Undergoing treatment at Oogziekenhuis Rotterdam

Oogziekenhuis Rotterdam trains doctors, paramedics and nurses. This means that you may be (partially) treated by someone who is still training to become an ophthalmologist. This is always done under the supervision and responsibility of a fully qualified ophthalmologist.

Oogziekenhuis Rotterdam's policy is to refer patients back to their own ophthalmologist, or to another ophthalmologist closer to their own home. Naturally, we will only refer you back if your ophthalmic symptoms are fully under control. This is also true for patients who came to Oogziekenhuis Rotterdam of their own accord, to obtain a 'second opinion'.

More information

If you have any questions after reading this leaflet, call Oogziekenhuis Rotterdam's Cataract Centre on 010 401 7644.