

What it is

Your natural lens is removed and replaced with a permanent artificial lens, chosen to reduce your dependence on glasses. It is technically identical to modern cataract surgery, performed for a different reason. Once it is done you can never develop a cataract.

Who it suits

Usually patients over 50, or over 45 with a strong prescription, particularly if you are outside the safe range for laser surgery, already need reading glasses, or have early lens changes. If laser vision correction or an implantable collamer lens would be safer for you, we will say so.

Your lens options

- Monofocal: distance only, fewest optical side effects.
- Enhanced monofocal: adds useful vision at arm's length.
- Extended depth of focus: smooth distance to intermediate range, fewer halos.
- Trifocal: greatest freedom from glasses, most halos.

Toric versions of each correct astigmatism. Blue Fin Vision® does not use femtosecond laser, because trial evidence and NICE guidance do not support the additional cost.

Both eyes on the same day

Routine at Blue Fin Vision® since November 2016, performed as two entirely separate operations. The second eye proceeds only if the first has been completely uncomplicated. If it does not proceed and you choose not to go ahead later, that eye's fee is returned to you in full.

Aftercare

Most patients receive dropless surgery, with the medication delivered inside the eye during the operation and nothing to remember afterwards. Where drops are safer for you, the course is six weeks. Patients travelling from overseas receive both.

Recovery

- Day of surgery: bright but hazy, mild grittiness. Relax at home.
- Day 1: blurred on waking, clearer through the day. Shower normally.
- Day 2: most patients have returned to their normal routine. Exercise and sport are unrestricted. Most patients can also drive, provided they can read a number plate at 20 metres without glasses.
- Weeks 2 to 6: vision sharpens and settles. Some day-to-day fluctuation is normal.

Helping your brain adapt

If you are having a trifocal or extended depth of focus lens, this matters more than anything else you do. From the day after surgery, set your phone font to the smallest comfortable size, put screen brightness at 50 per cent or above, read on your phone every day, and, at Blue Fin Vision®, do not use reading glasses unless we tell you to.

Main risks

From the national audit of 550 519 operations: capsule rupture during surgery 0.69 per cent, against approximately 0.2 per cent at Blue Fin Vision®. Loss of vision around the time of surgery 0.46 per cent, about 1 in 200. Severe loss of vision 0.17 per cent, about 1 in 500.

Expected side effects

These are not complications. Most patients experience some of them. The most common with trifocal lenses is halos and starbursts around lights, most noticeable at night, which usually settle over three to six months. Some grittiness and dryness in the early months is also normal.

Costs

- Monofocal or enhanced monofocal: £4,000 per eye.
- Trifocal or extended depth of focus: £4,500 per eye.
- Sedation, if chosen: £700 per session. A diazepam tablet is free.
- Consultation and scans: £500, prepaid and separate.

Medical treatment is exempt from VAT. The surgical fee includes 12 months of follow-up, all medication, any enhancement, and management of any complication including vitreoretinal surgery.

Enhancement

If your result needs refining, it is fully covered by Blue Fin Vision®. No cost-sharing, no additional fee. Assessed once vision stabilises at around three months, and available within 24 months of surgery.

This page is a summary, not a consent document

It does not replace the full Lens Replacement Surgery patient information booklet, which contains the complete information on risks, alternatives, limitations and aftercare, and which forms part of your informed consent alongside your consultation, your summary letter and your consent form. Please read the full booklet before your consultation. bluefinvision.com/lens-replacement-surgery