



NORTHWEST EYE SURGEONS

Cataract evaluations: A four-step process

We take great care when evaluating and treating all patients. Here, we present a step-by-step summary of cataract evaluations to give doctors and patients insight about this thorough four-step process. Patients should expect to spend about 2.5 hours in our office and their eyes will be dilated for this consultation. If the patient decides on surgery, another date will be scheduled for the procedure.

Step 1: Work up

Estimated time: 40-50 minutes

The first step in evaluating potential cataract patients is getting to know them and their vision-related issues. With each patient, we complete a health, ocular and family history and review current medications. We analyze present illnesses and symptoms, and conduct a visual system check—measuring blood pressure, dominant eye, and vision via eye chart reading. We check refraction to determine best corrected visual acuity, and test glare impairment, eye motility, side vision and other preliminary vision measurements as needed.

Same day biometry (A-scan) is performed at most of our clinics to avoid additional appointments for our patients. This is a required pre-surgery diagnostic. Lens power calculations are done at this time. The surgeon will choose a lens implant with the patient.

Step 2: Dilation

Estimated time: 30 minutes

Step 3: Consult

Estimated time: 20 minutes

After patients are dilated, we discuss and confirm their chief complaint and conduct a full slit lamp and ophthalmoscopy examination. We then review examination results with patients, advise them about treatment options, and discuss steps for follow-up care.



Step 4: Surgery review and schedule

Estimated time: 20 minutes

If cataract surgery is indicated, we show patients a brief video on the risks and benefits of cataract surgery. Patients also meet with surgical coordinators to review consent documents and schedule an appointment for surgery.

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