



TASMANIAN EYE CLINICS

EYE DOCTORS SPECIALISING AND CARING FOR YOUR EYES



eye TALK

with Dr Gordon Wise

Cataracts

My mother has cataract and has been told that after surgery she may not need to wear glasses. How can this be? There are a number of options in which cataract is treated and the overall vision of the patient is also improved.

What types of improvements are possible? Well, for one, it is sometimes possible to correct astigmatism with surgery. A lens is inserted into the eye to correct the difference between the two meridians of the eye, a difference which is the cause of the astigmatism.

Can anything else be done to improve vision after cataract surgery? Yes, in a procedure called 'monovision' it is possible to correct one eye for distance vision and one eye for intermediate vision, so that the person has little need for glasses.

I've heard about Bi-focal or Monofocal intraocular lenses. Do these exist? Yes they do. They are very good in certain situations but they have some limitations. For example, they can cause a decrease in contrast sensitivity especially in some lights, and they can also cause some blurring and glare associated with headlights at night time.

What do you think is the best form of correction for people with cataracts? I favour 'monovision'. That is, one eye corrected for distance vision (usually the dominant eye) and one eye corrected for intermediate vision, with the patient given a pair of glasses for reading small print.

What is a dominant eye? The dominant eye is the eye you 'line things up' with. Try it yourself by pointing at an object with both eyes open. Then close each eye separately. The eye that 'lines up' truly with the object is the dominant one - usually the same side as the dominant hand.

What form of correction would you have if you were the patient? Monovision, definitely.

How should I advise my mother? She should discuss her options with her medical eye specialist.

For more information refer to our website
www.taseye.com.au

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