

Cataract removal and lens replacement

Case study

Anne Ivorson was in her 50s before she overcame a lifetime of poor vision with a simple cataract removal and lens replacement procedure.

Since her teens, long distance sight had been a problem, although she was able to read without glasses. But as time went on, cataracts began to cloud the lenses of her eyes and any form of bright light became a real problem.

“Night driving became more and more difficult because of oncoming headlights, until eventually I had to stop. In the summer, when it was very bright, it was even a problem walking in the street because of the glare. I found I could not really see. I was putting on sunglasses much more of the time and I didn’t feel happy even walking down the road,” she explains.

“My vision was becoming increasingly affected by blurriness and glare. I tended to go around with my head down because of the difficulty of recognising faces and reading notices. Stronger glasses no longer worked. I found it quite depressing.”

An operation was the obvious solution but Anne feared that it would leave her unable to read without glasses – something she had always enjoyed.

“My optician explained that it was up to me but I didn’t really like the idea of having an operation that, like any surgical procedure, has risks associated with it and was going to leave me dependent on reading glasses.”

Anne mentioned her predicament to her GP. Luckily, he had just attended a presentation by Raman Malhotra, who had talked about an implantable intraocular lens known as the AcrySof® ReSTOR®.

A new type of lens

Mr Malhotra explains, “While they have provided a successful solution for a number of decades, monofocal intraocular lenses do not have the focusing power of the natural lens, which leaves virtually all patients dependent upon glasses for near vision.

“If Anne had undergone traditional cataract treatment, it is extremely likely that she would now require glasses for reading. The ReSTOR, however, allows high quality near and distance vision and, as a result, is revolutionising the treatment of cataracts – the leading cause of treatable blindness worldwide.

“It is wonderful to be able to offer patients the opportunity to see clearly without aid.”

The result

Anne was understandably nervous before her first operation but her fears were groundless.

“It was quite a scary prospect because I knew I was going to be awake but in reality it was painless and it healed very quickly,” says Anne, who had her eyes treated at two-month intervals.

Raman Malhotra

Consultant ophthalmic and oculoplastic surgeon

“It’s wonderful. It is liberating to just feel I don’t have to think about my vision any more. Even the night after having the first eye treated, I could see far better. The next day, it was as if the windows had been cleaned because my vision was much brighter. Even on a dull day it seemed incredibly bright.”

Today, she can drive again and feels far more confident. “Before, if the person I was talking to stood against the window, I would have just seen a silhouette. I wouldn’t have been able to see what expression they had on their face. It was disconcerting to have to think where I was standing when I was communicating with someone. If I didn’t, I couldn’t have a proper conversation.

“Now, I look up when I walk down the street because I expect that I’ll be able to see things. I feel very positive about it and want to tell people how good it is.

“I would definitely recommend having cataract treatment and I would recommend the ReSTOR. I’m just so happy that I can see clearly and read without spectacles.”