

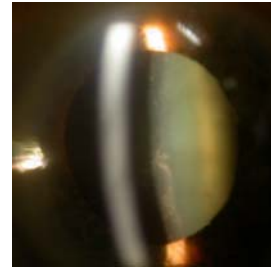


# Cataract Surgery

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### **Will my cataract be removed with a laser?**

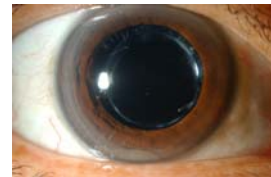
At the present time cataract surgery cannot be done with a laser. All patients undergo phacoemulsification where a probe is introduced into the eye and the cataract is emulsified into small pieces using sound waves. The small pieces are then removed and the soft remnants of the cataract are cleaned.



A mixed cortical and nuclear sclerotic cataract causing visual blurring and glare – pre-operative photograph.

### **Will I have stitches?**

Usually no stitches are required at all after phacoemulsification. The incision is less than 3 mm wide, and spontaneously seals so that the front part of the eye is water tight. A folded lens is inserted through the small incision. This opens to its full dimensions when in the eye.



Post-operative photograph – no stitches and a folding implant in the position of the previous cataract.

### **I don't think I will be able to tolerate the injections for cataract surgery**

Although most patients have their surgery with injections, some patients may prefer to have their surgery under general anaesthesia or with some sedation. More patients are opting for surgery with anaesthetic drops only so that no injections are required at all.

### **I have been told I have macular degeneration**

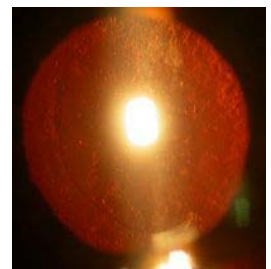
The presence of age related macular degeneration is not a barrier to having cataract surgery. However, the visual improvement is usually not as good as in patients who do not have any signs of macular degeneration.



'Dry' macular degeneration affecting the left eye.

### **I could see well after my cataract surgery, but my vision has become cloudy again**

The usual cause is thickening of the posterior capsule. The intraocular lens is positioned on a clear membrane (posterior capsule). The membrane can become opacified some time after surgery and may then require clearance with laser treatment. The chance of this is less than 5% following phacoemulsification with the latest intraocular lens technology.



Thickening of the posterior capsule behind the folding implant.



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### Ahmed's career

Ahmed qualified from the University of London in 1987, and started training in Ophthalmology in London in 1989. He was a registrar and a fellow in Nottingham, and was appointed as Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon specialising in phacoemulsification and oculoplastics at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital in December 1998. He has over 40 publications, more than 40 presentations, and a DM (thesis on endonasal laser DCR).

### Ahmed's roles at the Manchester Royal Infirmary & University

Ahmed interviews for the Medical School, and teaches medical and optometry students. He examines medical students, and for the MOptom. He is a member of the Local Negotiating Committee on behalf of the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, and is a North West Representative of the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association. He has raised money for the New Children's Hospital by arranging sponsored events. Ahmed has drafted a new mobile telephone use policy for the Trust which will become part of the hospital's policies.

### Ahmed's roles outside CMMC

Ahmed is a nominated representative of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) on the General Optical Council (GOC). He is a Member of The RCOphth and a Founder Member of The British Oculoplastic Surgery Society. He is an examiner for the RCOphth as well as part of the Training The Trainers and Microsurgical Skills faculties. He has an interest in facial palsy management and is a medical adviser to the British Acoustic Neuroma association. He used to work as an Ophthalmic Medical Practitioner whilst a registrar, is a member of the Ophthalmic Qualifications Committee of the British Medical Association, and is involved with the Education Visitor Panel of the GOC.

He is active in research, a journal editor and reviewer. He is a committee member of the British International Doctors Association. He is a medical member of the Appeal Panel of The Postgraduate Medical Training and Education Board. As well as a journal reviewer, he is a reviewer for Research for Patient Benefit and Map of Medicine.

Outside medicine, Ahmed is a school governor, is involved with medical charities and community finance initiatives, and is co-chair of the Manchester Christian-Muslim Forum.

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