



DAVID D. RICHARDSON, MD, INC.

DAVID RICHARDSON, M.D. • SAN MARINO EYE

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Your Cataract Surgery Experience

PRIOR TO SURGERY

1. If you are a contact lens wearer you will need to stop wearing the lens in the eye that will have surgery for at least three weeks prior to surgery. You may need to return to our office multiple times to have your corneal curvature measured prior to surgery.
2. You will need to coordinate pre-operative medical clearance from your internist or family physician. This needs to include blood testing, an EKG, and a physical exam. This should be done two weeks prior to surgery.
3. You will need to come into our office for additional testing of the eye and to complete the necessary paperwork prior to surgery. Please make sure to bring your consent and filled out questionnaire with you. Expect to be in our office for two to three hours.
4. Expect a call from us about two to three days prior to surgery to let you know what time you need to arrive at the surgery center.



DAY OF SURGERY

1. When you arrive there will be some minimal additional paperwork to fill out.
2. You will change out of your clothing into a hospital gown.
3. A mark will be made on your forehead indicating which eye is to have cataract surgery.
4. During the time you are in the surgery center you may be asked multiple times “what eye are you having surgery on?” This is not because the staff don’t know but because they check and double check that we are operating on the correct eye. This is for your protection.
5. Multiple drops will be placed in your eye multiple times. Although the drops you use at home must be spaced at least five minutes apart, the drops in the hospital will be given to you one right after the other. This is OK.
6. It may take 45 minutes to two hours for your eye to dilate enough for Dr. Richardson to safely perform surgery. Dr. Richardson will check your pupil once you are in the operating room.
7. An IV will be placed in your arm either in the pre-operative holding area or in the operating room. Once in the operating room the anesthesiologist will give you something through the IV to relax you. One of the effects of this medication is short-term amnesia. So, if you are having your second eye done, don’t be surprised if you don’t remember all of these things being done when you had your first cataract surgery. This is a very common feeling.
8. A blood pressure cuff will be placed on your other arm. This is necessary

for monitoring this critical vital sign. Periodically this will inflate and give you a sense of pressure. Just relax and the pressure will go away.

9. Dr. Richardson feels that music works both to relax you and assist with the rhythm of surgery. If you have a particular type of music you would like Dr. Richardson to play during the surgery, let him know. The only music Dr. Richardson won't operate to is Country music.
10. During the actual surgery you will hear buzzing and bells. There may be a sense of pressure in the eye and you may feel fluid running down the side of your face. This is all normal.
11. You should not feel pain during the surgery. If you do, let Dr. Richardson know and he will give you additional anesthetic.
12. You will be in the operating room for about 45 minutes to an hour. About half of this time is spent preparing for the actual surgery.
13. After surgery a shield will be placed over your surgery eye, you will be transferred to a recovery area for an hour or so while the nurses check your vitals and confirm that you have recovered from the anesthetic.
14. The entire process from the time you arrive to the time you leave the hospital can take from three to five hours.



AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF SURGERY

1. You may have the sense that there is something in your eye like a grain of sand. This is normal and will be relieved by using the drops that you have been instructed to use. If needed, you may take Tylenol for relief. You should not have significant pain. If you do, please call Dr. Richardson's office as soon as possible (626) 289-7856.

THE DAY AFTER SURGERY

1. You should arrive at Dr. Richardson's office at the scheduled time (usually in the morning). Please bring your drops with you.
2. Dr. Richardson's staff will remove your eye shield and check your vision. Your vision may or may not be better the first day after surgery as there are many variables that can affect vision early after surgery. Most people who do not have other diseases of the eye will experience significant improvement in their vision with new glasses by one month after surgery.

