

Information Sheet

ICL (Implantable Contact Lens)



The ICL is a lens that is surgically inserted inside of the eye between the iris and the natural lens. The ICL does not affect the appearance or colour of the eyes. The procedure does not involve removing tissue from your cornea so making it suitable for people with thin irregular corneas, dry eyes or high refractive errors.

Once implanted, the lens can remain indefinitely. If the vision changes over time, the lens can be replaced or removed. The two eyes are treated on separate days, usually about one week apart. Recovery time is quick with minimal discomfort.

WHO IS A GOOD ICL CANDIDATE?

- Is aged between 21 and 45
- Suffers from dry eyes, severe myopia or thin and/or irregular corneas
- Has had a stable prescription for at least 12 months
- Has not undergone any ophthalmic surgery and does not have a history of eye disease such as iritis, glaucoma, or diabetic retinopathy
- Is not pregnant or breastfeeding

WHERE IS THE ICL PLACED?

An ophthalmologist will insert the ICL through a small micro-opening, placing it inside the eye just behind the iris in front of the eye's natural lens. The ICL is designed to stay in position with no special care.

DOES IT HURT?

No, most patients state that they are very comfortable throughout the procedure, due to twilight anesthesia.

WHAT IS THE ICL MADE OF?

The ICL of choice is the Visian ICL and is made of Collamer®, a highly biocompatible advanced lens material which contains a small amount of purified collagen. Collamer does not cause a reaction inside the eye and it contains an ultraviolet blocker that provides protection to the eye. Collamer is a material proprietary to STAAR Surgical Company.

WHAT IF MY VISION CHANGES AFTER I RECEIVE THE ICL?

One advantage of the ICL is that it offers treatment flexibility. If your vision changes dramatically after receiving the implant, your surgeon can remove and replace it. The implant does not treat presbyopia (difficulty with reading in people 40 and older), but you can use reading glasses as needed after receiving the ICL.

WHAT TYPE OF PROCEDURE IS INVOLVED IN IMPLANTING THE ICL?

The surgical procedure to implant the ICL is simple and painless. The implantation procedure itself takes about 15 minutes and is performed on an outpatient basis, though you will have to make arrangements for someone to drive you to and from the procedure. You can expect to experience very little discomfort during the ICL implantation. You will undergo treatment while under a twilight anesthetic. Following surgery, you may use prescription eye drops or oral medication. The day after surgery, you will return to your surgeon for a follow-up visit. You will also have follow-up visits one month and six months following the procedure.

IS THE ICL VISIBLE TO OTHERS?

No. The ICL is positioned behind the iris (the colored part of the eye), where it is invisible to both you and observers. Only your surgeon will be able to tell that vision correction has taken place.

WILL I BE ABLE TO FEEL THE ICL ONCE IT'S IN PLACE?

The ICL is designed to be completely unobtrusive after it is put in place. It stays in position by itself and does not interact with any of the eye's structures.

CAN THE ICL BE REMOVED FROM MY EYE?

Although the ICL is intended to remain in place permanently, a qualified ophthalmologist can remove the implant if necessary.

RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCEDURE

- *Damage to the Crystalline Lens* - Since the ICL is placed inside the eye, potential risk touching the eye's natural lens may result. Damage to the natural lens may cause opacity of the lens, in the most serious case, requiring removal and replacement of the natural lens with a synthetic lens.
- *Increase in Eye Pressure* - In some cases, there may be an increase in eye pressure. If this occurs, a surgeon may quickly remedy the problem with additional medications or surgical intervention.

WHERE CAN I GET FURTHER INFORMATION?

If you are a potential ICL candidate who is interested in obtaining further information, you should contact a qualified ICL Ophthalmologist. Queensland Laser Vision recommends the following Ophthalmologists and clinics for the ICL procedure:

Dr Kevin Vandeleur Brisbane North Eye Centre
708 Gympie Road, Chermside QLD 4032
Phone: 07 3359 1169
Web: www.bnec.com.au

Dr Andrew Apel The Eye Health Centre
11th Floor, 87 Wickham Terrace, Brisbane QLD 4000
Phone: 07 3831 8606
Web: www.theeyehealthcentre.com.au

Please Note:

- A referral is needed to attend a refractive lensectomy consultation with the ophthalmologist
- The report generated from an Queensland Laser Vision assessment is accepted as a referral
- A referral from your optometrist or GP is also accepted
- Consultation & Surgery fees apply – please phone the clinics directly for the amounts