

The cataract

Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness in the world. Approximately 20 million people have become blind because of this disease. Cataracts cannot be prevented from forming, but they may be treated easily and economically. A vitamin-rich diet may contribute in part to its prevention. It is a process of progressive opacification of the crystalline lens linked to the oxidation of the protein constituents of its normally transparent tissue which interferes with or blocks completely the passage of light necessary for clear vision.

The crystalline lens is a small lens behind the coloured iris, at the centre of the pupil. For various reasons relating to age, trauma, disease (diabetes, flogosis, iatrogenic and congenital causes), prolonged use of certain drugs or hereditary factors, the lens loses its transparency.

Cataracts can develop quickly or be slow and gradual. Commonly, the symptoms that the patient feels are the reduction or fluctuation of visual acuity, sensitivity to glare, often a worsening of contrast sensitivity and a false improvement of near vision.

It frequently occurs that the patient affected by presbyopia will notice an improvement in near vision, to the point of being able, at times, to abandon the use of near-vision glasses.

With an operation of 20 minutes it is possible to replace the opacified lens with a plastic one.

For information or appointments please call 059 440 970