

Century Eye Care Centre

What is Phaco-emulsification surgery?

- It is a modern method of cataract surgery wherein the cataract is removed from the eye by dividing it into small pieces, which are then aspirated by a needle. It uses ultrasound for mechanical division of the cataract. (commonly called as laser cataract surgery)

How is it different from conventional cataract surgery?

- The conventional cataract surgery involves physically expressing out the lens from the eye and thus requires a wound of 10-12 mm in size and a minimum of 4 to 5 sutures. The Phaco surgery can however be done through a self-sealing wound of 1.8 to 3.5 mm in size not requiring any sutures. The visual recovery takes at least 6 weeks in the conventional cataract surgery while only 1 week in Phaco surgery.

How safe is it?

- Phaco surgery is an absolutely safe surgery

Which lens is preferred?

- Phacoemulsification works best with a foldable small lens that requires a small wound and thus does not require sutures. However, if cost is the constraint a non-foldable lens can also be implanted. It is much smaller than the one that is used in conventional cataract surgery.

Will it be painful?

- The surgery is done under local anesthesia achieved by giving an injection and thus is painless. In some suitable cases which will be decided by the doctor, surgery can be performed without injection.

What are the postoperative precautions?

- You will have to use eye drops for about 4 weeks. It is advisable not to splash water on your open eye or rubbing it for at least 2 weeks. The dusty conditions are avoided for the same duration. There is no restriction in reading, bathing, watching TV or eating any type of food.

Will I need glasses after surgery?

- A majority of the present generation intraocular lenses are unifocal i.e. they provide vision either for near or distance. We generally correct for the distant vision and provide glasses for near work. However, fine tuning for distant vision may also require a small correction.