

# Patient Information

## Implantable Contact Lens With Visian ICL Frequently Asked Questions

### **Implantable Contact Lenses & the Visian ICL**

Imagine being able to enjoy life without worrying about your glasses or contacts. An implantable contact lens (ICL) offers you freedom from nearsightedness. One such lens is the Visian ICL by Staar Surgical. This lens enables you could enjoy the beauty of a sunset, go snorkeling and observe amazing sea life, see a friend's smile from across the room, or simply sit anywhere in a movie theater without having to fuss with glasses or contacts.

The ICL is inserted into the eye during a short surgical procedure. Unlike LASIK or PRK, the ICL implantation does not permanently change the shape of the eye. Also, the high-definition ICL may improve your quality of vision better than many other refractive procedures.

### Quality of Vision

The ICL potentially offers not only excellent visual acuity, but also excellent quality of vision. This feature allows patients to see objects clearly. They almost have "high definition" vision, compared to their previous level of vision. Athletes, sportsmen, members of the military, police or firemen, and anyone who needs to clearly see objects will enjoy the convenience of an ICL.

### Potentially, No Need for Contact Lenses or Glasses

With the ICL, most patients are able to set aside their cumbersome glasses and contact lenses for good. The ICL produces a high level of post-operative clarity that can be experienced almost immediately after the procedure, with little down time.

After having the procedure, most patients are able to see without the assistance of glasses or contact lenses, during both day and night. That means no more fumbling for glasses at night to see the clock and a bathroom counter that is free from the clutter of contact lens care products.

### Stable Results

Once the ICL is in place, it requires no maintenance other than routine eye exams. In the case of the Visian ICL, the lens is made of Collamer, a highly biocompatible material that contains a small amount of collagen for flexibility and longevity. Since the ICL is placed inside the eye, it is protected from dirt and the wear and tear

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normally associated with traditional contact lenses. This enables the ICL to provide clear vision that will last a lifetime.

### **How do I know if I am a suitable ICL candidate?**

Candidates for the ICL are between 21 and 45 years of age, suffer from myopia (nearsightedness), and want to experience superior vision correction. The ideal ICL candidate has not undergone any ophthalmic surgery and does not have a history of eye disease such as iritis, glaucoma, or diabetic retinopathy.

Nearly anyone seeking clearer vision may be a ICL candidate, including those with special or extreme vision correction needs.

Women who are pregnant or nursing should wait to have the ICL implanted. Lastly, those without a large enough anterior chamber depth or endothelial cell density may not be a good ICL candidate.

### **Where is the ICL placed?**

An eye surgeon will insert the ICL through a small micro-incision, placing it inside the eye just behind the iris in front of the eye's natural lens. The ICL is designed not to touch any internal eye structures and stay in place with no special care.

### **Does it hurt?**

No, most patients state that they are very comfortable throughout the procedure. Your ophthalmologist will use a topical anesthetic drop prior to the procedure and may choose to administer a light sedative as well.

### **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 doctor can remove and replace it. If necessary, another procedure can be performed at any time.

Patients can wear glasses or contact lenses as needed following treatment with the ICL. 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 nearly painless.

As a ICL candidate, your doctor will prepare your eyes one to two weeks prior to surgery by using a laser to create a small opening between the lens and the front chamber of your eye. This allows fluid to pass between the two areas, thereby avoiding the buildup of intraocular pressure following the surgery.

The implantation procedure itself takes about 10 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.

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You can expect to experience very little discomfort during the ICL implantation. You will undergo treatment while under a light topical or local anesthetic, perhaps with the addition of a mild sedative. Following surgery, you may use prescription eye drops or oral medication. The day after surgery, you will return to your doctor for a follow-up visit. You will also have follow-up visits one month and six months following the procedure.

Although the ICL requires no special maintenance, you are encouraged to visit your eye doctor annually for check-ups following the ICL procedure.

### **Can the ICL be removed from my eye?**

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

### **Will I be able to feel the ICL once it is 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.

### **Is the ICL visible to others?**

The Visian ICL is positioned behind the iris (the colored part of the eye), where it is invisible to both you and observers. Only your doctor will be able to tell that vision correction has taken place.

### **What is the track record of the Visian ICL?**

Prior to being placed on the market, the Visian ICL was subject to extensive research and development. Today, more than 55,000 patients worldwide enjoy the benefits of the device. In an FDA clinical trial, over 99 percent of patients were satisfied with their implant. The Visian ICL has a track record of stable, consistently excellent clinical outcomes. The lens has been available internationally for over 10 years.

### **What is the Visian ICL made of?**

The Visian ICL 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 filter that provides protection to the eye. Collamer is a material proprietary to STAAR Surgical Company.

### **Where can I get more information?**

For more information, visit us at [www.carolinaeye.com](http://www.carolinaeye.com) or contact our patient services counselor by phone at 910.295.1501 or 800.733.9355, or by email at [info@carolinaeye.com](mailto:info@carolinaeye.com).

If at any time you need to reach our main center, please call 910.295.2100 or 800.733.5357.

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