

# The Visian ICL™ Vision Correction Procedure

The implantation procedure for the Visian ICL (Implantable Collamer® Lens) is refractive eye surgery that involves a procedure similar to the intraocular lens (IOL) implantation performed during cataract surgery. The main difference is that, unlike cataract surgery, the ICL eye surgery does not require the removal of the eye's [crystalline lens](#).

The Visian ICL procedure is a relatively short outpatient procedure that involves several important steps.

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## One to Two Weeks before the Visian ICL Eye Surgery

About one to two weeks prior to the insertion of the Visian ICL you will have a [YAG laser iridotomy](#). During this procedure, a YAG laser will be used to make one or two small openings near the edge of your iris, which is the colored part of the eye. These openings serve as outlets that will allow the fluid in your eye to circulate around the lens.

Prior to creating the small openings in the eye with the laser, the doctor will apply numbing drops to make the procedure more comfortable. Eye drops will be prescribed for you to use during the weeks leading up to the Visian ICL procedure.

## Day of the Visian ICL Surgical Procedure

The entire surgical procedure will take about 15 to 30 minutes and most patients say it is relatively painless because of the numbing agents used. Someone will need to drive you home following the procedure.

### Topical Anesthesia

On the day of your procedure, prior to surgery, your surgeon will administer topical anesthesia to minimize discomfort, however you may still feel pressure in your eye. Additionally, you may or may not be given a sedative.

### Lens Positioning Openings

Once you are comfortable, your surgeon will begin the procedure. First, the doctor will create one or two small openings at the base of your cornea that will be used to position the lens.

## **Gel-like Solution**

Next, a gel-like substance will be placed inside your eye to protect the eye during lens placement. This gel will be removed at the end of the procedure.

## **Lens Incision**

Following placement of the gel, a small incision will be made, through which the lens will be inserted.

## **ICL Insertion**

Prior to the Visian ICL procedure, your ICL lens was selected based on your individual prescription. The lens was folded and loaded into a small cartridge which will now be placed through the incision. As the lens is injected, it will gently unfold in your eye. Special marks on the lens ensure proper positioning. Once the lens has fully unfolded, the four corners of the lens will be placed behind your iris. This makes the lens invisible to both you and others.

## **Removal of Substance**

Once the lens is in place, your surgeon will remove the gel-like substance.

## **Eye Drops**

To complete the procedure, the surgeon will instill eye drops to help prevent infection and inflammation. You will continue to use these drops for several days after your procedure.

Because the incision made during surgery is so small, sutures are typically not needed following the Visian ICL eye surgery. For comfort and protection, the doctor may cover the eye with a patch or shield and prescribe drops or medication.

You will not be able to drive immediately after the Visian ICL eye surgery, so it is important that you arrange for transportation home.

## **Follow-Up Care after the Visian ICL Procedure**

Within 24 hours of undergoing the Visian ICL eye surgery, the patient should have a follow-up visit with the ophthalmologist. The doctor will monitor the eye's intraocular pressure and will discuss your progress.

Patients need to follow physician instructions, especially regarding the needed use of antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medications during the week following the refractive surgery.

Patients should contact their eye surgeon immediately if they experience severe eye pain or a sudden decrease in vision.

Improved vision may be evident the same day as the Visian ICL eye surgery, and you can expect a quick visual recovery.

## Ideal Candidates for Visian ICL™ – An Advanced Vision Correction

The Visian ICL (Implantable Collamer® Lens) is a state-of-the-art refractive error solution that is ideal for anyone who has the need or desire for quality vision correction.

### The Visian ICL Candidate

Good candidates for the Visian ICL include patients who:

Are between the ages of 21 and 45.

Are nearsighted with or without astigmatism\* or farsighted\*, including those with mild, moderate, and severe myopia (-3D to -20D prescription) with minor or no occurrence of astigmatism.

Have proper [anterior chamber](#) depth and acceptable eye tissue cell density (this will be determined by an ophthalmologist after a comprehensive eye exam).

Have not had a change in their eyeglass prescription of more than 0.5D in a year.

Are not currently pregnant.

Have no known allergies to medications used during refractive surgery or no other contraindications.

Have dry eyes, severe myopia, or a thin cornea (non-LASIK candidate).

### Why Patients Seek Visian ICL

Patients seek the Visian ICL because they expect the highest quality of results from their refractive vision correction procedure. The advantages of our phakic IOL (highlighted below) make the Visian ICL a sought after treatment for [nearsightedness](#) with or without astigmatism\* and farsightedness\*.

*High quality of vision* – The Visian ICL not only improves your visual acuity, but it also enhances your quality of vision by producing sharp vision.

*Wide treatment range* – In comparison to other refractive procedures, the Visian ICL offers the widest treatment range for treating myopia (-3.0 diopters to -20.0 diopters).

*Foldable* – Because the Visian ICL is foldable, a small incision is required during the procedure. This feature makes the procedure efficient (no sutures needed) and reduces healing time.

*Invisible* – The placement of the Visian ICL into the posterior chamber of the eye makes the lens invisible to both the patient and any observer.

*Collamer composition* – Used exclusively by STAAR Surgical Company, Collamer is made from collagen, which is a substance that naturally occurs in the body. This makes the lens highly biocompatible with the eye.

*Proven track record* – Implanted in over 60,000 eyes worldwide, the safety and amazing improvement in vision quality of the Visian ICL has been proven over the last 15 years.

Because the Visian ICL is also ideal for patients with contraindications for laser refractive surgery, some people may consider the Visian ICL as an alternative to LASIK; however, as you can see, it is so much more than that. It is often compared to the corneal refractive procedure because the Visian ICL takes refractive surgery beyond the limits of LASIK.

## **Myopia / Nearsightedness Information – Correcting Myopia / Nearsightedness with or without Astigmatism\* with the Visian ICL™**

Myopia, commonly referred to as nearsightedness, is a common vision problem that affects almost a third of the population. The term nearsightedness has become common in describing people with myopia because they are able to see nearby objects more clearly than distant objects.

Because nearsightedness can be a hindrance in daily life, many myopic patients seek effective ways of correcting myopia. Corrective lenses in the form of glasses and contacts are a common way of correcting nearsightedness.

Without the assistance of corrective lenses, people with myopia tend to have difficulty clearly seeing:

- The faces of people across a room
- Highway signs when driving
- A screen at a movie theater
- A chalkboard or presentations from the back of a room
- Other distant objects

Nearsightedness is usually caused by an eye that is too long. The irregular shape of the eye causes incoming light rays to focus in front of the retina rather than directly on it. As a result, images of distant objects appear blurry.

Prescription eyewear is effective for correcting myopia because the corrective lens can refocus the incoming light and create clearer images. Unfortunately, glasses and contacts are not a permanent solution for correcting nearsightedness, since they only work when they are being worn.

# **Hyperopia / Farsightedness Information – Correcting Hyperopia\* / Farsightedness with the Visian ICL™**

Hyperopia, commonly referred to as farsightedness, is a common vision problem that also affects a large portion of the population, about 25%. The term farsightedness is commonly used because it describes the condition in which people are able to see distant objects more clearly than nearby objects. This should not be confused with presbyopia in which reading nearby objects becomes difficult. This begins to occur naturally in all people around the age of 40 years.

Like nearsightedness, farsightedness can also be a hindrance in daily life so many hyperopic patients seek effective ways of correcting hyperopia. Corrective lenses in the form of glasses and contacts are a common way of correcting farsightedness.

Without the assistance of corrective lenses, people with hyperopia tend to have difficulty clearly seeing:

- A computer screen
- A newspaper
- Both nearby and distant objects

Farsightedness is usually caused by an eye that is too short. The irregular shape of the eye causes incoming light rays to focus behind the retina rather than directly on it. As a result, images of near objects appear blurry.

Prescription eyewear is effective for correcting hyperopia because the corrective lens can refocus the incoming light and create clearer images. Unfortunately, glasses and contacts are not permanent solution for correcting farsightedness, since they only work when they are being worn.