

Cecille Taylor, M.D.
1615 Creekside Drive, Suite 110
Folsom, CA 95630
Phone (916) 983-4550 | Fax (916) 983-8569

Astigmatism Management and Correction with Cataract Surgery

Astigmatism causes blurry vision. Normally, eyes are round (like a baseball). With astigmatism, the eye is long (like a football). Many people with cataracts have astigmatism. If you have astigmatism, wearing glasses or contact lenses can help you see more clearly. Or you could have surgery (called LASIK or PRK) to change the shape of your eye to correct astigmatism.

There are two options to correct astigmatism during cataract surgery:

- 1) Your eye surgeon can put a special type of IOL called a **Toric IOL** in the eye that has astigmatism. However the Toric IOL is not covered by Medicare or any other Private Pay Insurance Company, this IOL if chosen will be the patients responsibility.
- 2) Your eye surgeon can make **a cut called a relaxing incision** in the cornea (clear covering over the eye) to change its shape. The goal of a relaxing incision is to make your cornea rounder so your vision is clearer.

Risks - As with all surgery and medical procedures, problems can happen. In addition to all the risks for cataract surgery, here are some common or serious risks for astigmatism correction:

- **The toric IOL** may be placed in the wrong position or may shift position after surgery is over. The Toric IOL may not correct all of the astigmatism (under-correction). Or it could correct it too much (overcorrection) or change the type of astigmatism you have. If you are under-corrected or over-corrected, you may continue to have blurry vision. You may need to wear glasses or have another procedure to make your vision clearer.
- **Relaxing incisions** may cause vision loss. They can damage or scar your cornea. They may not correct all of the astigmatism (under-correction). Or they could correct it too much (overcorrection) and change the type of astigmatism you have. If you are under-corrected or over-corrected, you may continue to have blurry vision. You may need to wear glasses or have another procedure to make your vision clearer.
- Astigmatism may change or come back as you get older and cause blurry vision again.
- You may need to wear glasses after getting a Toric IOL or having a relaxing incision.

Consent. By signing below, you consent (agree) that:

- You read this informed consent form, or someone read it to you.
- You understand the information in this informed consent form.
- The eye surgeon or staff offered you a copy of this informed consent form.
- The eye surgeon or staff answered your questions about astigmatism correction.
- You understand that you may need to wear glasses after surgery.

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Please check the box about how you choose to correct astigmatism during cataract surgery.

I consent to:

- I wish to have the **Toric IOL** implanted during cataract surgery to help with my astigmatism correction. I would like my eye surgeon to put in a toric IOL in my **Right / Left Eye.**
- I wish to have the **Relaxing incision(s)** made during cataract surgery to help with my astigmatism correction. I would like my eye surgeon to make a relaxing incision(s) on the cornea of my **Right / Left Eye.**
- I have been informed of my Astigmatism along with the Management and Correction Options during Cataract Surgery and choose do decline these options. I do understand that by declining these surgical options that Corrective Lenses or Glasses may be needed after surgery to correct my astigmatism.

Patient's Signature (or person authorized to sign for patient)

Date

Surgeon's Signature

Date

Witness Signature

Date