

No-Blade CATARACT SURGERY

FAQ for Patients

1. What is No-Blade Cataract Surgery? How does it compare to traditional Cataract Surgery? Is the technology new?

No-Blade Cataract Surgery uses the femtosecond laser technology which has been used for many years in creating the flap for LASIK eye surgery (since 2003 in VISTA), but is also being used now in cataract surgery (since 2011 in VISTA). The laser – guided by an advanced imaging system known as the OCT – can create precise incisions, automating steps of cataract surgery that have traditionally been done manually with a surgical blade. The computer-driven incisions are more precise and reproducible than what can be done manually by hand. For most patients, this new technology has made cataract surgery even safer, recovery even faster, and visual results even better.

2. How many years of experience does VISTA have of is technology?

VISTA started using femtosecond laser in LASIK surgery since 2003 and in cataract surgery about 4 years ago in Nov 2011. Presently 2 out of 3 patients select the no-blade procedure at the VISTA Curve center. It has brought faster recovery, better safety and results to many patients.

3. Where is this technology from? Is it FDA approved?

The No-Blade Cataract Technology that VISTA is using is from the USA and is FDA approved.

4. What is the benefit of No-Blade Cataract Surgery over the traditional cataract surgery?

The No-Blade Cataract surgery uses the femtosecond laser to do many of the steps currently performed manually by surgeons and is designed to provide a great level of precision and safety to modern cataract surgery. Some of the key benefits are:

- a. **Better Safety and Reliability:** Reduced risk of complication including blindness and less stress to the cornea (less endothelial cell loss).
- b. **Better Visual Results:** Allows for better positioning of lens thereby maximizing the outcome of Premium IOL lenses and resulting in less haze.
- c. **Making Surgery Simpler:** Replacing some manual steps and the use of a blade (knife) during surgery.
- d. **Faster Surgery time**
- e. **Faster Recovery**

[Source: Laura Straub, *Cataract & Refractive Surgery Today Europe April 2011, p36-46*]

5. Which patients will benefit most from this No-Blade Cataract Surgery?

- a. For patients with intermediate and advanced/dense stages of cataract, No-Blade Cataract Surgery will reduce the risk of complications from prolonged surgery and higher phaco energy used.
- b. Helps in faster recovery for patient with diabetes.
- c. For patients with high degree of short-sightedness - which usually means they have long eye balls, risk of surgery will be reduced significantly.

6. Does this mean that the No-Blade Cataract Surgery is completely risk-free?

No medical surgery including Cataract Surgery is completely risk-free. However, the No-Blade technology helps to reduce this risk significantly.

7. Will No-Blade Cataract Surgery replace the traditional Cataract Surgery? How has been the response to this new No-Blade Cataract Surgery technology?

Eventually, like No-Blade LASIK which replaced Blade LASIK 1 year after its introduction, we envisaged the No-Blade Cataract Surgery will replace the traditional cataract surgery in 3 years by 2018. Presently already 2 out of 3 patients at our Curve center choose No-Blade Cataract Surgery.

8. How much does it cost?

The cost of No-Blade Cataract Surgery is an additional RM3,998 per eye on top of the blade cataract package.

9. Why is the treatment more expensive? Do you have any 0% Ezypay?

The investment in the femto-cataract machine is more than RM2 million, not including the high maintenance cost and single use disposable cones necessary for the surgery. However, this is certainly a small price to pay for a safer Cataract surgery which gives better surgical results. Cataract Surgery is still very much cheaper compared to other lifestyle investments such as travelling on a holiday, new cars, or on a house etc. 0% Ezypay with selected credit cards is also available.

10. How important is this No-Blade Cataract Surgery technology to the overall Cataract surgery?

The No-Blade Cataract Surgery contributes to ensuring more surgeon control, improved visibility to help the surgeon make the right decisions, while its laser helps to significantly increase safety by replacing a manual blade.

11. Is the Cataract Surgery faster with No-Blade Cataract Surgery?

The Cataract surgery is faster because the Cataract would already be broken into smaller pieces by the Femto-Cataract laser, resulting in less time needed to manually break it during phaco (ultrasound) especially for intermediate and advanced Cataract.

12. Why is the recovery faster?

Patients get quicker visual recovery because there's less ultrasound energy being used within the eye, resulting in less haze and less inflammation in the eye. The highly accurate self-sealing wound created by the laser also helps speed up the recovery process. This is evident in the increasing worldwide popularity of having both eyes done on the same day or one day after the other.

13. Why is the No-Blade Cataract Surgery safer?

The No-Blade Cataract Surgery replaces the blade or tool used in the manual steps or incisions that are error prone, with a computer aided laser.

14. Don't all eye surgeons already use lasers for cataract surgery?

A lot of doctors offer a "laser procedure" as it is often an easier term to be understood by the elderly, than a "phacoemulsification ultrasonic procedure". As a result, there is a misconception that the 'phacoemulsification process' during the Cataract Surgery is a 'laser process' but in fact, in most cases, doctors are only using ultrasound energy to break the lens. There is no actual laser being used. Only in procedures that uses the Femtosecond Laser (No-Blade Cataract Surgery), whereby some of the steps in the surgery are done with a laser. Be sure to find out more and decide what is the best for you. After all, you only have one chance to make it right.

15. What is the disadvantage of No-Blade Cataract Surgery?

The disadvantage is the extra charges needed to cover the cost of the disposables and the equipment.

16. Will my insurance cover the cataract surgery cost?

In most cases, yes. Please refer to the terms and conditions of your health insurance policy or contact your insurance provider for exact details. We will be more than happy to assist in any way.

17. Who is not suitable for No-Blade Cataract Surgery?

- Patients who do not have realistic expectations – that is those who view No-Blade Cataract Surgery as the perfect surgery which can achieve perfect eye sight without any risk of surgery.
- Patients who has previous eye surgery will need to undergo comprehensive eye examination to determine suitability.

18. Should I be going overseas for more advanced cataract surgery like the No-Blade Cataract Surgery?

Sure you can. However, the No-Blade Cataract Surgery that is offered by VISTA is very similar to those on offer by some of the renowned eye clinics overseas. In fact, due to our affordable pricing, many of our patients are actually from overseas.

19. Do I need to wear glasses after No-Blade Cataract Surgery?

With the combination of Premium Multifocal Lens and No-Blade Cataract Surgery, many of our patients achieve visual freedom and rarely wear glasses to see far and near.

20. Are there many different types of lens?

Yes, there are many different types of lenses ranging from monofocals or multifocals. Our doctors will discuss with you to decide which lens is more suitable for your everyday visual needs.

21. What is the solution for cataract surgery today?

Every individual eye and customer expectations from treatment are unique and different. Generally, many worldwide renowned surgeons would agree that one of the best solution available to date is the combination of the No-Blade Cataract Surgery with a Premium Multifocal Lens for good visual results and safety. In many cases, patients achieve visual freedom and rarely need to wear glasses after the surgery.

22. How can we determine if the eye specialist is good?

A good eye specialist understands your needs and lifestyle and will take the time to explain about your options and set the correct expectations. The Specialist will then assess your condition and makes a recommendation of the modern technology available to date to safely meet your visual needs.

23. Can you tell me what are the considerations for a successful cataract surgery are?

Many renowned surgeons worldwide would agree that a successful Cataract Surgery is one that meet the expectations of the patient, be it using a monofocal vs. multifocal lens, or doing blade vs. No-Blade surgery. Overtime, we will see the No-Blade Cataract Surgery become an increasingly important part of Cataract Surgery.

24. Why should I choose the No-Blade Cataract Surgery?

For Faster Recovery, better visual outcomes and safer surgery.