

Visian ICL™ FAQ

Prepared by Mulqueeny Eye Centers – mulqueenyeyecenters.com

1. What is nearsightedness?

Nearsightedness, also called myopia, is a common vision error in which light entering the eye focuses in front of the retina, rather than on the back of the eye. This results in blurry vision and difficulty seeing anything at a distance. The Visian ICL™ is designed to correct this problem permanently by focusing light correctly on the retina.

2. Who is a candidate for Visian ICL™?

The best candidates for the Visian ICL™ are between ages 21-45 with good corrected vision, generally healthy eyes and moderate to severe nearsightedness with a prescription between -3.00 and -20.00 diopters of correction. In addition, vision should be stable for at least one year and there should be no history of eye surgery or eye diseases such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy or infections to the iris.

3. What can I expect during the Visian ICL™ procedure?

The procedure takes about 30 minutes and is done at an outpatient surgery center. Local or topical anesthesia is used to minimize any discomfort. The Visian ICL™ is a foldable intraocular lens, which means it can be inserted through a very tiny incision in the eye about 3 mm in diameter that does not require stitches. The lens will unfold naturally when it is inside the eye.

4. Is this lens safe?

The Visian ICL™ lens has been shown to be very safe and effective. It received FDA approval in December 2005, and has been implanted in 45,000 eyes worldwide.

5. How effective will the Visian ICL™ be in improving my vision?

FDA clinical results after three years showed that 94.7 percent of patients achieved 20/40 eyesight or better without glasses or contact lenses, allowing them to drive a car without the need for corrective eyewear. Fifty-nine percent achieved 20/20 vision and more than 92 percent of patients reported they were very satisfied or extremely satisfied with the improvement to their eyesight after receiving the Visian ICL™.

6. What is a Phakic lens?

The Visian ICL™ is one of several Phakic lenses. A Phakic lens means that the natural lens of the eye is not removed, but remains in place behind the new artificial lens. In contrast, during cataract surgery, the natural lens, which has become cloudy and damaged, is removed before a new implant is inserted.

7. Does Visian ICL™ carry any risks?

Surgery always carries the potential for risk, but generally the risk for Phakic lens implants is low. However, there are possible complications or side effects from the Visian ICL™. Our surgical team will carefully screen potential candidates for these new lens implants to ensure the best outcome.

8. How long can the Visian ICL™ stay inside the eye?

The Visian ICL™ is designed to remain inside the eye indefinitely. It is a permanent contact lens that is maintenance-free and only requires a yearly follow-up exam. However, the lens can be removed at any time in the future if it becomes necessary.

9. What is the lens made of?

The Visian ICL™ is made of collamer (a type of plastic) and a co-polymer that contains purified collagen, a natural component of your body. It also contains an ultraviolet light filter to give you added protection. These materials are biocompatible with the body, which means they are gentle on the eyes, very stable and do not cause any reaction inside the eye.

10. Will I be able to see or feel the lens?

No. The Visian ICL™ lens is placed inside the eye in front of the natural lens and behind the iris, the colored part of the eye. It is virtually invisible to both the patient and an observer. It can only be seen by the doctor during an eye exam. The lens is also designed so it can not be felt by the patient. Once it is inserted into the eye it remains in place permanently.

11. When should Visian ICL™ not be used?

Patients may not qualify for the Visian ICL™ depending on the size of their pupil, the depth of the front portion of the eye and the number of cells (density) underneath the cornea. We will take special measurements during your evaluation to determine if Visian ICL™ is right for you.