Most Frequently Asked Questions About Premium Intraocular lens Implants (IOL's)

1. How are premium IOLs different from the standard single focus IOLs?
Standard single focus (also known as monofocal) IOLs are fixed-focus lens implants that are designed to provide good *distance* vision. Most patients see well enough to drive or watch TV without glasses, however, corrective lenses are usually necessary to read, play cards or do any close-up work. The new lens design of the ReSTOR® create multiple focal points so patients are able to see well at varied distances, while the crystalens® is engineered to mimic the eye's natural process of accommodation. All premium IOLs offer patients the opportunity for a greater independence from glasses after cataract surgery.

2. Could I be a candidate for one of the premium IOL? If you have been diagnosed with cataracts and/or presbyopia and are in good general health, you may benefit from this exciting technology. It is important to note, however, that patient selection criteria requires that both eyes be done, generally within several weeks of each other, in order to achieve the optimum results. In addition, your eyes must be healthy and not afflicted with other medical conditions such as severe diabetic retinopathy, uncontrolled glaucoma, or advanced macular degeneration. The determination of whether this premium lens would be right for you can only be made by your doctor after a thorough eye examination.

3. What if I've already had RK , LASIK or another eye surgery? Can I get these lenses? If you've had LASIK or some other type of laser resurfacing eye surgery, you still may be a candidate as long as your eyes are in good health. You will require additional testing such as corneal topography and corneal pachymetry to assist in proper lens calculation.

4. After receiving one of these premium IOLs, will I still need glasses at times?
The goal of these lenses is to REDUCE your dependence on glasses or contact lenses. Most patients can conduct the majority of their daily activities without glasses, but results do vary depending upon your vision, lifestyle, and the anatomy of your eyes. Various studies show that the majority of patients receiving this technology may occasionally need to wear glasses. Circumstances where glasses were sometimes needed included night driving, long periods of reading, and reading very fine print.

5. Is there an adjustment period or side effects after surgery? Patients receiving these premium IOLs usually experience an "adjustment period." It generally takes six to 12 weeks for the brain to learn to "see" up close and distance with the new lens. Also, some people report halos or glare around lights while getting used to them. For most, this issue diminishes over time. However, for some, it never completely goes away. More people report that the ability to see near and far greatly outweighs any visual side effects associated with these IOLs.

6. Will I require additional eye surgeries after a premium IOL? Even though premium IOLs are designed to provide a lifetime of improved vision; there are no guarantees. Again, results will vary depending upon your vision, lifestyle, and the anatomy of your eyes. While the goal is to treat your nearsightedness, farsightedness, loss of focusing power, and cataract all at once, it is possible that additional procedures such as LASIK may be required to reduce astigmatism, fine-tune your vision, and meet your expectations. Consult with your doctors and surgeon to make sure you understand the issues associated with these lenses, and what additional procedures might be indicated to ensure your ultimate satisfaction.

7. Is the cost of premium IOLs covered by Medicare and/or other insurance? If you have vision loss due to cataracts, the good news is that the cost of these premium IOLs and the associated services are ***partially*** covered by Medicare and private medical insurance. The patient is responsible for payment of that portion which exceeds the charge of the standard single focus IOL. Out of pocket cost of premium IOLs (ReStor and Crystalens)is $1995 per eye

If you do not have a cataract, most insurance companies will not provide coverage. They usually consider this a cosmetic rather than a medical necessity. The patient then would be responsible for payment of the surgery, lens implant and surgery center fees. Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover can be used, and we also offer affordable financing plans

8. What is the difference between the ReSTOR® and the Crystalens®? All premium IOLs are designed to provide distance and near vision simultaneously, but each using a different patented design. Your doctor will ask you questions about your lifestyle and needs before making a recommendation as to which lens design would work best for you.

9. How do I know if I am a candidate? Unfortunately, not everyone is a candidate for these new IOLs. Please take a moment to answer the following questionswith a YES or a NO and it will provide some indication of whether you might be a candidate for this exciting new technology.

____ I have not had cataract surgery in either of my eyes.
____ I do not have wet or severe macular degeneration.
____ I do not have glaucoma, or if I do, it is controlled through successful treatment.
____ I have not had a life-long complaint about severe glare intolerance.
____ I don’t have an occupation or hobby that often requires me to drive at night.
____ I’m not hypercritical about my vision.
____ I don’t like wearing glasses all the time.

Congratulations. If you have said yes to all of the boxes above, then you may be a candidate!