The Guide to Implantable Contact Lenses

LOOK GREAT. SEE GREAT.
LASER REFRACTIVE • COSMETIC EYELID • PREMIUM CATARACT

CONLON EYE INSTITUTE
Many of us take our sight for granted, whether it’s forgetting how often we rely on it to guide us through our day-to-day activities, or ignoring the vision impairments we experience at various points of our lives.

For nearly as long as people have had vision problems, efforts have been made to correct nearsightedness and farsightedness. However, prior to the 20th century little progress was made beyond the development of eyeglasses and contact lenses.

Today an astonishing number of innovative techniques and technologies are available to help correct vision problems. From glasses and contacts to PRK, LASIK, and innovative new devices used in corrective eye surgery like the implantable contact lens. Today’s patients enjoy an array of choices that give them greater control over their vision correction treatment.

Saskatoon-based ophthalmologist Dr. M. Ronan Conlon has always recognized the importance of proper eye care. Since establishing his clinic in 1994, he has strived to offer innovative procedures to help treat a range of eye concerns. The “vision” behind his practice has been to help patients take a direct approach to their eye care.

“Individuals want the freedom of choice regarding their eye care and I have developed my practice around offering services that enhanced one’s own lifestyle from a visual perspective. Everybody wants to see clearly.”  – Dr. M. Ronan Conlon
NOT EVERYBODY IS A GOOD CANDIDATE FOR LASER EYE SURGERY

When people think of vision correction surgery, they most often think of “laser eye surgery.” However, 10 to 15 per cent of patients that are seen at laser centres are found to not be good candidates. Individuals with thin corneas, chronically dry eyes, or extreme refractive error, are often found to be not suitable candidates for laser eye surgery, and leave the laser center very disappointed.

There are other options!

CONSIDER IMPLANTABLE CONTACT LENSES (ICL)

For individuals with severe near-sightedness (myopia) or farsightedness (hyperopia), who are not candidates for corneal based refractive surgery (LASIK/PRK) – implantable contact lenses are an effective alternative. With the Implantable Contact Lens, you can achieve high definition vision without many of the risks associated with LASIK.
WHAT ARE IMPLANTABLE CONTACT LENSES?

Implantable Contact Lens (ICL) surgery is a non-laser refractive procedure to correct moderate to severe nearsightedness or myopia. A contact lens-like material, also known as a implantable contact lens is implanted inside the eye and acts like an internal contact lens.

Rather than changing the shape of the cornea, as in LASIK eye surgery, implantable lenses are placed inside the eye to enhance the focusing abilities of the eye's natural lens, providing excellent quality of vision for a wide range of vision correction. The lens implant is placed near the iris where it works with your natural lens to provide clear vision at a full range of distances.

Should your prescription change, the lens is replaceable. This allows you to maintain your vision for years to come.

Implantable contact (collamer) lenses are similar to lenses used in cataract surgery, except it is not necessary to remove one's natural lens at the time of surgery, and the ICL is placed in front of one's natural lens at the time of surgery.

WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM IMPLANTABLE CONTACT LENSES?

This type of procedure is ideal for patients older than 21 and less than 45 years old. Patients 45 and older who are already presbyopic or in the early stages of presbyopia should consider other vision correction procedures. Lens implants are appropriate for patients with larger degrees of nearsightedness (-6.00 to -16.00 diopters) who have moderate astigmatism and who are not LASIK candidates.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

The ICL procedure takes approximately 15-20 minutes, and is performed in the surgical suite at Midwest Eye Care Institute. Similar to cataract surgery, the implant will be placed into the eye through a small incision, which generally does not require stitches to close.
WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF IMPLANTABLE CONTACT LENSES?

More and more patients are turning to implantable contact lenses because of their clear advantages over glasses, contacts, and, in some cases, LASIK and PRK.

ALTERNATIVE TO LASER EYE SURGERY

The biggest advantage of the ICL is that more patients than ever before are able to undergo surgical vision correction. People, who cannot undergo LASIK, such as those with thin corneas, chronically dry eyes, or extreme refractive error, can enjoy the benefits of ICL.

SUPERIOR QUALITY OF VISION

For years, the only method of permanent vision correction that didn't involve glasses or contacts was corrective laser eye surgery. However, with the advent of ICL that's all changed. ICL is a new alternative which may actually produce superior vision quality. It's vision that's potentially sharper, clearer, more vivid and has greater depth and dimension.

EXCEPTIONAL PATIENT EXPERIENCE

After the simple 15-minute outpatient procedure, patients experience an immediate improvement in vision quality and are wowed by the results. The recovery for the procedure is quick and pain-free, and may be as little as one day, due to the very small opening required. Patients typically experience minimal discomfort, and many times go back to work the next day.
PERMANENT YET REMOVABLE

One of the most common concerns people have about LASIK is that the procedure permanently changes the eye. One of the important advantages of the ICL is that while it can permanently correct your vision, it can be removed and/or replaced if in the unlikely event an ICL patient experiences negative side effects.

YOUR NATURAL EYE

While LASIK involves cutting and removing eye tissue that cannot be replaced, concerns involving the cornea typically do not apply. In fact, no natural corneal tissue is permanently removed or reshaped in any way during implantation of the ICL.

REDUCED RISKS OF COMPLICATIONS

Patients undergoing corneal refractive procedures, such as LASIK and PRK, may be susceptible to side effects associated with corneal surgery including dry eye and thinning of the cornea. The LASIK procedure involves removal of tissue from the cornea, which means some of its complications may be more difficult to correct than the possible complications of the implantable contact lenses.
The ICL is the procedure of choice for patients who need and expect high quality results in performance and safety. When compared to other surgical vision correction procedures, ICL delivers sharper vision and high patient satisfaction. It's your clear choice for the best quality of vision.

For 34-year-old pharmacy student Colette Yungmann, she was looking for a permanent solution that would help improve her vision without the use of glasses or contact lenses. “I have been wearing glasses since I was eight and at 15, I switched to contacts. After wearing contacts for another 15 years, they started bothering my eyes,” she says. “I couldn't tolerate contacts anymore and I wasn't comfortable wearing glasses because my vision was so poor that I just didn't want to have to live with wearing glasses all day. It's the typical being sick of not being able to see the alarm clock in the morning and not being able to play sports without the fear of breaking your glasses.”

Since Yungmann's vision had deteriorated over time, she wasn't a candidate for laser vision correction. When she heard about Conlon's ICL procedure from a friend, who was also considering the procedure, she was immediately interested and contacted Conlon for a consultation.

And two years later, she is still thrilled by the procedure's results.

“I now have near-perfect vision. I require no other vision accessories; I don't have to wear glasses or contacts at all… It has just freed me from that crutch of always having to have something to see,” she says. “It has just made a tremendous difference in how much better I feel about myself as well.”

Yungmann credits Conlon and his team for their support throughout her entire experience. “They were all very helpful and friendly. The staff is amazing; everybody is so kind and patient.”
## Know Your Options
See How They Compare

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<th>ICL</th>
<th>LASIK</th>
<th>PRK</th>
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<tbody>
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DOES HEALTH CARE PAY FOR IMPLANTABLE CONTACT LENSES?

No. Phakic implant surgery is a refractive procedure (like PRK/LASIK) and is consider an elective lifestyle improvement, as opposed to medical necessity (cataract surgery). In some cases individual insurance plans may offer a partial benefit that can save you money on the cost of the procedure, and you are advised to check with your insurance company or employer prior to the procedure.

HOW MUCH DOES THE PROCEDURE COST?

The refractive lens procedure costs $2500 per eye. The cost of the pre-operative consultation is $250.00 (not included in price of procedure). All payments are required a week in advance for surgery.

WHAT WILL I FEEL DURING THE PROCEDURE?

Patients experience virtually no discomfort during the surgical implant procedure. It’s performed using a local or topical anesthesia (eye drop) to numb the eye, and you are given a sedative intravenously to relax you. Mild discomfort for the first 24 hours is typical. If you experience postoperative discomfort, you may use Tylenol or ibuprofen during the first day or two after the procedure.

WILL I STILL HAVE TO WEAR GLASSES?

Whether you will need to wear glasses or contacts after your procedure depends upon the severity of your nearsightedness. If you have larger degrees of myopia, you can have this procedure to reduce the amount of refractive error distorting your vision. Then you can either use lighter prescriptions of glasses or contacts or have LASIK or PRK surgery to correct the rest.

IF MY VISION IS STILL NOT CORRECTED, CAN I HAVE A RE-TREATMENT?

It is possible that some nearsightedness will remain after surgery, especially for those patients with severe degrees of myopia. An additional laser vision correction surgery may be performed to further improve your vision once your eyesight has stabilized for several months following the lens implant.
ABOUT THE CONLON EYE INSTITUTE

The Conlon Eye Institute is a state-of-the-art medical and surgical ophthalmological facility located within the Medical Arts Building in Saskatoon. Founded by Dr. M. Ronan Conlon, the Conlon Eye Institute specializes in refractive laser surgery, cataract surgery, implantable contact lenses and eyelid surgery.

The Conlon Eye Institute is equipped with cutting edge diagnostic and therapeutic equipment, including Optical Coherence Tomography, Visante Omni OCT, Corneal Microscopy, Humphrey Visual Field Analyzer, Digital Fundus Photography, IOL Master Biometry, Corneal Topography, and Selective Laser Trabeculoplasty. The facility meticulously adheres with the standards recommended by the Canadian Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities (CAAASF) as a non-hospital based surgical facility. Our Surgical Suite meets the highest quality norms, and is also accredited by the CAAASF.

DR. M. RONAN CONLON

Dr. M. Ronan Conlon has been practicing ophthalmology in Saskatoon since 1994. His special interests in ophthalmology include laser refractive surgery, cataract surgery, oculoplastic surgery and implantable contact lenses. He regularly performs routine and complex cataract surgery, astigmatism correction, custom cataract surgery and refractive laser surgery. With subspecialty training in oculoplastic surgery he also has considerable expertise in cosmetic and reconstructive eyelid surgery.

Dr. Conlon completed his residency training in ophthalmology at the University of Western Ontario in 1991. Dr. Conlon has completed 3 years of fellowship training in ophthalmology; one year at Harvard University (1991-1992) and two years at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics (1992-1994). Dr. Conlon first began performing PRK and LASIK surgery in 1995, and was one of the founding refractive surgeons at Horizon Laser Vision Center.
BOOK YOUR CONSULTATION TODAY

Making the decision to undergo eye or eyelid surgery is not to be taken lightly. Like any medical procedure, you want to be sure the team entrusted to your care is experienced, professional and attentive. As a client of the Conlon Eye Institute that’s exactly what you can expect - regardless of what procedure you choose.

The best way to find out if you are a candidate for ICL is to book a consultation with Dr. Conlon. Dr. Conlon will recommend a specific treatment plan that best meets your needs, depending on the unique physical characteristics of your eyes, and your specific visual needs.

1-877-484-4111 OR EMAIL BOOKING@CONLONEYEINSTITUTE.COM