

[Download] So You've Got a Cataract?: What You Need to Know about Cataract Surgery: A Patient's Guide to Modern Eye Surgery, Advanced Intraocular Lenses C (Paperback) - Common

## **So You've Got a Cataract?: What You Need to Know about Cataract Surgery: A Patient's Guide to Modern Eye Surgery, Advanced Intraocular Lenses C (Paperback) - Common**

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**(author) Dr David D Richardson M D : So You've Got a Cataract?: What You Need to Know about Cataract Surgery: A Patient's Guide to Modern Eye Surgery, Advanced Intraocular Lenses C (Paperback) - Common** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised So You've Got a Cataract?: What You Need to Know about Cataract Surgery: A Patient's Guide to Modern Eye Surgery, Advanced Intraocular Lenses C (Paperback) - Common:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Recommended but with caveatsBy George GoldbergAs other reviewers have written, this is a good book for people with cataracts who are unfamiliar with the surgery which is the only proven treatment for the condition. It is written clearly, and while the author minimizes the use of medical jargon, he is not condescending. I do have some reservations, however.The first is typical of materials on this subject. For some reason, doctors and others involved in cataract surgery boast of its 90% success rate. Well, last year there were some 4 million cataract surgeries in the U.S. A 90% success rate means that some 400,000 of those surgeries failed. All those people went through the trauma and expense of this procedure and could see no better afterwards than before (the doctors definition of failure); some were much worse off. If this is a fact, it should surely be disclosed; but its hardly something to be proud of, or something which should allay a prospective patients fears.The second is more

subtle. While the author mentions some complications which may arise during and after cataract surgery, his descriptions of them can be too brief and anodyne. For example, he mentions the risks of intraoperative floppy iris syndrome (IFIS) in the eyes of men who are taking (or have ever taken) an alpha blocker for an enlarged prostate. It turns out that this drug not only relaxes the muscles around the prostate and bladder to facilitate urination, it also weakens the iris dilator muscles in the eyes raising the risk that the pupil could become un-dilated during surgery with potentially disastrous consequences. Dr. Richardson concludes (p. 55) that your surgeon will need to take extra precautions prior to or during your surgery to minimize the risks of IFIS. Well, yes ... but. First, my description is much stronger than Dr. Richardson's, which makes IFIS seem like a minor problem rather than what it is: a potential catastrophe. Second, the surgeon will need to take extra precautions both prior to AND not OR during the surgery. Finally, and most importantly, the nature of those precautions are not discussed in any way. They include the possible use of iris hooks and other appliances and a significantly protracted surgical procedure, and if IFIS is severe, bad things may still happen. The author does include a reference to an article by David Chang, the San Francisco surgeon who discovered the association of prostate drugs and IFIS in 2005, but many people reading this book may not follow that up, and that article is highly technical. Then there's the question of how to pay for cataract surgery. It's not cheap. In his own practice, Dr. Richardson charges from just under \$4,000 to just over \$6,000, depending upon lens choice and including hospital costs. That's per eye, so if you need both eyes done, you're looking at something in the area of \$10,000, which for many people is a lot of money. But Medicare and/or insurance covers cataract surgery (not including premium lenses), so you're only in for deductibles and co-pays, right? Well, not if Dr. Richardson is your surgeon, because he doesn't accept Medicare or private insurance. Maybe you can be reimbursed for some or all of these costs, or maybe not, but the hassle is yours as is the necessity to have or borrow the money up front. I do nevertheless recommend this book because, for all its faults, it's one of the best and most honest out there. The claims often made for cataract surgery are simply outrageous. You may be told by your optometrist that this is a safe and simple procedure taking just a few minutes and next day you will see like you did when you were twelve. Dr. Richardson makes no such claims, indeed makes clear in detail the extensive preparations the patient must make, the cataract evaluation session with the surgeon, the preoperative session with the surgeon, the 2-4 hours you will spend at the surgical center on the big day, and the weeks of care afterwards and that's if everything goes well, which it doesn't always do. He also shows his awareness of his patients' problems by producing this book in large print; he offers a CD of it for those who can't see well enough to read it even so.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.  
Reassuring and Informative  
By SFI was always nearsighted but my prescription had remained fairly unchanged for decades. Suddenly I was at the ophthalmology office every 8 months, then every 6 months. Finally we hit the wall - my cataracts had grown to where my vision could no longer be corrected with new eyeglasses and my doctor laid out the options. It seemed cataract surgery and IOLs were the way to go, but it is scary to think of someone cutting on your eye. I put off the surgery until after the holidays and right around the first of the year I found this book on . I read it once straight through and then I read it a second time more carefully making notes and jotting questions for my doctor. After reading and gaining an understanding of the procedure I felt so much better about the whole process. When I went in for my appointment to have the IOL measurements taken a great deal of this same information was presented to me but I felt so much better prepared to ask questions and was not at all overwhelmed by all of the information my doctor provided because this book had given me a great foundation. This is a great resource to help you understand what has happened to your eyes and the procedure to correct it. I had my surgeries in January and February and now my vision is clear and bright and I am no longer nearsighted! I only wear glasses for reading and I feel so much more confident driving and going out into the world.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.  
So You've Got a Cataract  
By Naomi E. Lieberman  
Dr. Richardson's book is a wonderful reference book. It explains everything you need to know to make informed decisions about cataract surgery. Luckily we came across it just before my husband's first cataract appointment! The book has large print and is easy to understand; no medical background is necessary. The explanation about the various intraocular lenses is particularly important since one's choice affects what glasses will be worn in the future as well as one's pocketbook. I am so grateful I found this book and heartily recommend it to everyone!!  
Naomi Lieberman

**A BOOK ABOUT CATARACTS FOR PEOPLE WITH CATARACTS. NO COMPLEX MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY! - from one of America's Most Compassionate Doctors, Dr. David...**