

# Laser Cataract Surgery

BREAKTHROUGH  
BLADELESS  
TECHNOLOGY





## LASER PRECISION OPTIMAL VISION

One of the safest ophthalmologic procedures, cataract surgery, is now even safer, more precise and recovery time is faster with state-of-the-art bladeless laser technology. Gainesville Eye Associates is on the leading edge of this technology as the first practice in Georgia to perform laser cataract surgery.

Like traditional cataract surgery, an incision is made in the eye, the natural clouded lens is removed and a new lens is inserted. The laser replaces the traditional hand-held blade to allow the most precise and smallest possible incision, about 1/18th inch. The computer-controlled laser allows our surgeons to plan and perform the surgery to exact, individual specifications not attainable with other surgical methods, resulting in better overall vision.

# CATARACTS

A normal part of the aging process, a cataract is a cloudiness of the natural lens of the eye that dims or blurs vision, often causing a glare or halo around lights at night and difficulty seeing or reading in low light. If your sight becomes too poor to carry on normal activities, the solution is to surgically remove the clouded lens and replace it with an artificial lens or IOL (intraocular lens).

Cataract surgery is a very safe procedure, with more than two million surgeries performed world-wide annually. Laser cataract surgery has improved the precision and visual outcomes as well, with fewer patients needing to wear glasses after the surgery.



Dr. Clayton Blehm

## THE PROCEDURE

Bladeless laser cataract surgery is performed right in our in-office surgical suite at Gainesville Eye Associates. The procedure only takes 15 – 20 minutes, and by adding computer control to key steps of the cataract surgery, the LenSx® laser ensures the highest-precision incisions.

Before the surgery, you will receive medication to help you relax and ensure that you feel no pain. The eye area will be cleansed and draped, and will be positioned open so you do not have to worry about blinking. A tiny, self-healing incision is made on the edge of the cornea with the laser instead of with a blade. The laser then creates an opening in the membrane to remove the cataract. Studies have shown that less than 10% of manual incisions have been able to achieve the same accuracy that is produced with laser cataract surgery.

After the cataract is removed, your surgeon will insert the new lens where it gently unfolds into place. You will spend a few minutes in recovery before going home with a shield over your eye to protect it from accidental rubbing or bumping. Most patients can drive and resume normal activities the very next day.

Besides faster recovery time, bladeless cataract surgery minimizes changes to refractory vision, meaning fewer patients develop astigmatism or other vision problems after the surgery.

“This is a major milestone in cataract surgery.”

– Jack Chapman, M.D.

# REPLACEMENT LENSES

IOLs (intraocular lenses) are soft, foldable lenses that are inserted to replace the natural lens that developed the cataract. These lenses are also an option for some patients who may not have cataracts but who want to reduce or eliminate the need for glasses with a procedure called Refractive Lens Exchange. It is the same procedure as cataract surgery except that the lens removed is still mostly clear.

There are different kinds of IOLs to choose from:

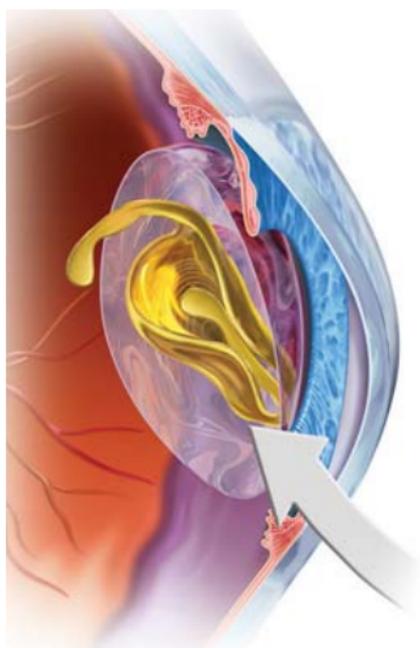
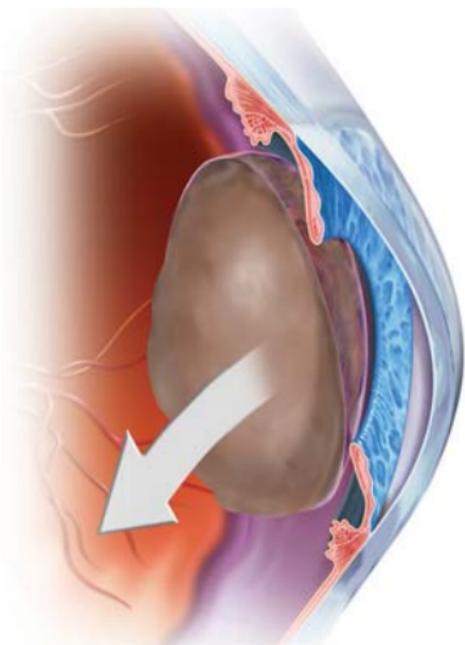
**Monofocal IOLs** are the traditional single-focus lenses designed to provide distance vision

**Multifocal IOLs** are multiple-focus lenses providing for near, intermediate and distance vision

**Toric IOLs** are similar to traditional monofocal lenses, but also treat astigmatism

**Monovision** is not one lens but a system of varied-power lenses involving both eyes

**Combined Technologies** where you and your physician may choose a combination of lenses to create a personalized treatment plan for your unique visual needs



## LIFE-CHANGING RESULTS IN MINUTES

Whichever IOL you choose, you can be sure that cataract surgery is one of the safest and most effective procedures performed today. While laser cataract surgery is not currently covered by insurance, its benefits outweigh that fact for many patients.

We are happy to consult with you to provide the very best solution for your overall vision needs.

"I knew it would be an out-of-pocket expense, but the laser cataract surgery was worth it to me because I knew I would have a better chance of correcting my close-up vision along with my astigmatism. Now I can do everything from driving to computer work and reading without any glasses at all."

– Susan, Gainesville Eye Associates patient



Drs. Chapman and Blehm are featured in a Fox 5 WAGA-TV report on this breakthrough laser cataract surgery at [www.GainesvilleEye.com](http://www.GainesvilleEye.com).

“The new laser technology gives us more precision than manual techniques. It’s much less invasive when removing the cataract from the eye, and it helps improve lens placement.”

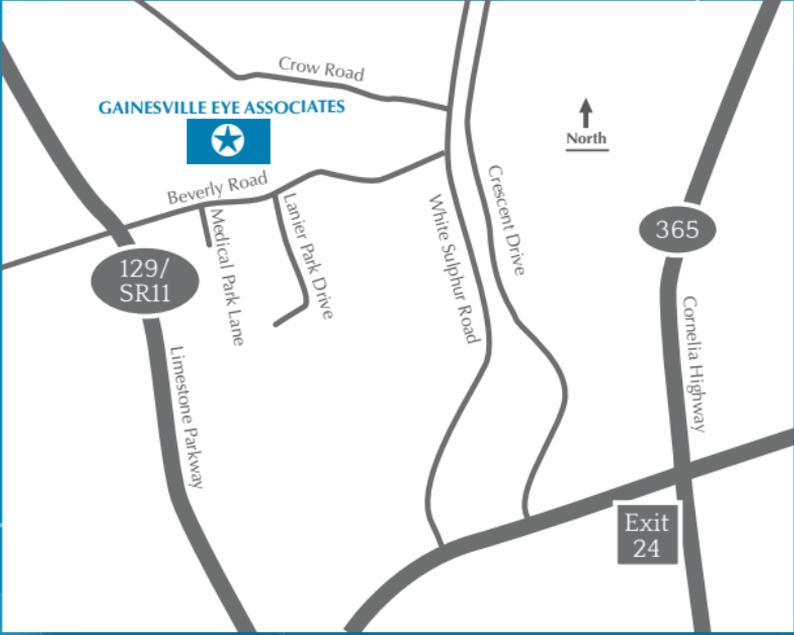
– Jack Chapman, M.D.





"I watched Dr. Blehm perform laser cataract surgery on Dr. Chapman in a feature on Fox 5 WAGA-TV. Dr. Chapman now has 20/20 vision. If he trusts it that much, then I do, too."

– John, Gainesville Eye Associates patient



GAINESVILLE  
*eye* ASSOCIATES

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