

Crystalens – add 1

It does this thanks to two “hinges” that allow the lens to move back and forth as the focusing muscles in the eye contract and relax. This movement is what gives patients the ability to see at all distances seamlessly. All other conventional lens implants are fixed and stationary within the eye, preventing them from moving to focus.

In October 2005, Fishman had one of her cataract-fogged lens removed and replaced with a Crystalens. In November, she had the other eye done.

“Now my distance vision is excellent,” says Fishman. “I’m still doing my eye exercises and my close vision is improving.”

According to Nevyas-Wallace, the Crystalens is implanted in the same, time-tested manner that traditional intraocular lenses have been for more than 30 years. The surgery is performed in an outpatient facility and takes about 20 minutes under eye-drop anesthesia.

In May 2005, Medicare changed its rules so that senior citizens who undergo cataract surgery will be able to choose Crystalens. The lens previously hadn’t been available to Medicare patients. Under the old rules, Medicare patients could not have the Crystalens because they were not allowed to pay the difference between the cost of a cataract surgery using a conventional lens implant and a similar procedure using Crystalens. Now, Medicare will cover the cost of cataract surgery, and the patient is permitted to pay privately for the Crystalens portion of the procedure.

Nevyas-Wallace was the first ophthalmologist in the Delaware Valley certified to perform Crystalens surgery and has performed more of these procedures than any other surgeon in the area. Nevyas Eye Associates remains one of only a handful of centers in the region certified to implant the Crystalens.

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