

Cataracts

Think of how cloudy a pane of glass appears when it is dirty - that's how the eye's lens appears when cataracts develop. It usually takes years for the lens to become foggy, but eventually the cloudy lens causes a disabling loss of vision, either by distorting light rays or keeping them from reaching the retina at all. Cataract occurs in about half of all people ages 65-74 and in about 70% of those older. Each year, about 1.5 million cataract surgeries are done in the United States, making it one of the most common operations in the country.