What Is the Difference Between ICL and Intraocular Lens (IOL) Used In Cataract Surgery?

During cataract surgery, the eye's opacified natural lens (cataract) is removed and replaced by an Intraocular Lens (IOL). An ICL, on the other hand, is implanted in the eye without removing the natural lens. This means the patient retains the natural focusing capability (accommodation) for near objects after surgery as the natural lens of the eye is not removed. The risk of retinal detachment after ICL surgery is significantly lower than that of cataract surgery.

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For enquiries and appointments, please contact us

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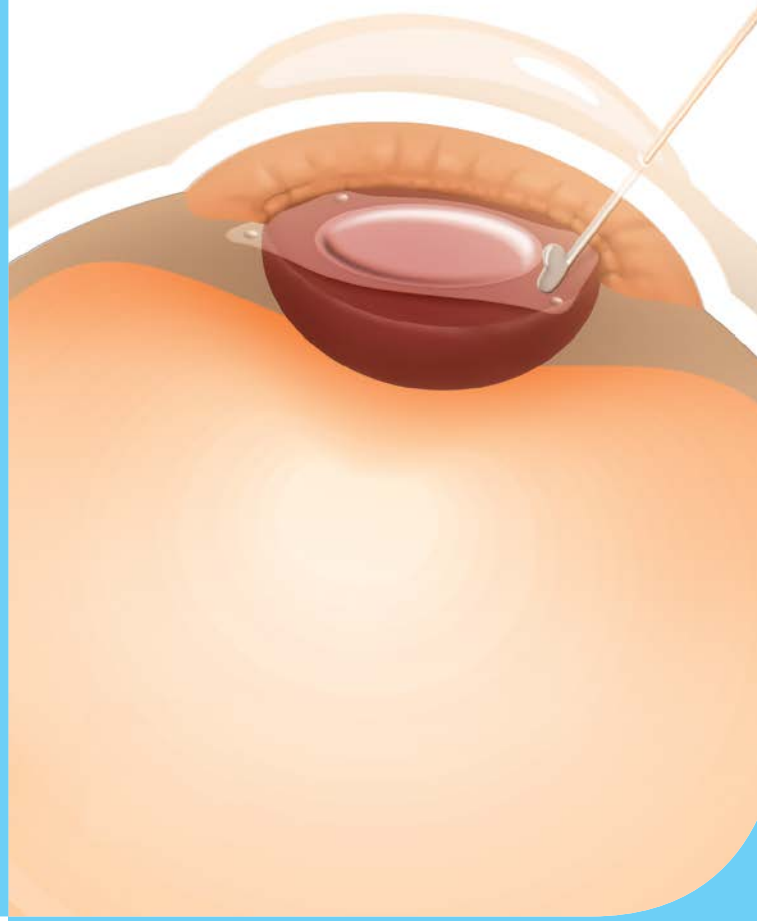
Implantable Contact Lenses



HKSH Ophthalmology Centre has extensive experience in Implantable Contact Lenses (ICLs) surgery over the past twenty years. In recent years, our Centre has introduced the fifth-generation ICL lenses, offering significant improvements in night vision and a wider range of sizing options. This development demonstrates our commitment to advancing eye care technology and meeting the evolving needs of our customers. By prioritising innovation and quality, we are dedicated to fostering improved visual outcomes and quality of life for everyone who chooses our services.

What Are Implantable Contact Lenses (ICLs)?

Implantable Contact Lenses (ICLs), also known as Implantable Collamer Lenses, are artificial lenses which are surgically implanted into the eyes. They are made of highly biocompatible plastic or silicone materials. Implantation of ICLs corrects refractive errors without removing the natural crystalline lens.

Refractive errors occur when light rays passing through the eye are not focused on the retina, therefore blurred images are formed. ICLs correct these errors by focusing light directly on the retina. This provides clear distance vision without the aid of glasses or contact lenses. The procedure involves inserting an ICL behind the iris through a small incision, using a microincision technique.

Who Can Benefit from ICL Implantation?

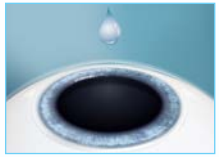
Implantations of ICL can correct a very high degree of refractive errors and maintain good quality of vision.

Range of Refractive Errors

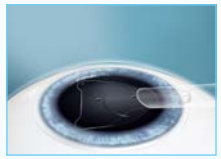
- Up to 1800 degrees of nearsightedness (myopia)
- Up to 1000 degrees of farsightedness (hyperopia)
- Up to 600 degrees of astigmatism

How Is ICL Implantation Performed?

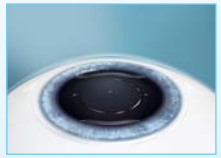
ICL implantation is a day procedure that only requires local anesthesia. First, the doctor administers anaesthetic eye drops to the patient's eyes, then makes a small incision in the cornea and inserts the ICL between the crystalline lens and the iris. After the surgery, the corneal incision will heal naturally.



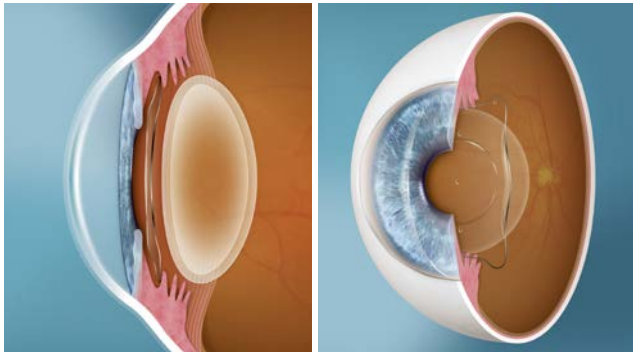
Administer anaesthetic eye drops



Inject the ICL through a small incision in the cornea



Implant and adjust the ICL behind the iris



The ICL is positioned between the iris and the natural lens, fully preserving the eye's physiological structure and accommodative function

Care Tips After ICL Implantation

- Avoid rubbing eyes to prevent infection or dislodging the lenses
- Apply eye drops as directed to reduce inflammation and prevent infection
- Limit screen time to reduce eye strain
- Protect your eyes from harmful UV rays when outdoors by wearing sunglasses
- Attend regular eye check-ups to ensure eye health

Is the Procedure Reversible?

Yes, ICL implantation is a reversible procedure. ICLs can be removed or replaced when needed.