

If you have cataracts as a baby or a child you may not realise it. You might think your eyesight is normal and that everyone sees things the way you do. But cataracts usually make your vision less clear and in some children, vision may be very blurry.

If an optician thinks you have a cataract you will be sent to an eye hospital to have your eyes examined by eye doctors (ophthalmologists) using a microscope. They may also use a test

called an ultrasound to show what the inside of your eye looks like.



Left: What cataracts can look like.

Right: an eye examination using a microscope

Getting it sorted

It is important that children with cataracts are examined as early as possible. If they have a cataract in both eyes, and the cataracts are affecting the vision badly, they can be treated by having an operation. During the operation, the lens in your eye will be removed and may be replaced with a new one.

Getting better

After the operation it may take a while for your vision to improve. You will need regular appointments at the hospital to have your eyes checked.

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**Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS
Foundation Trust**
City Road, London EC1V 2PD
Phone: 020 7253 3411
www.moorfields.nhs.uk

Moorfields Direct telephone helpline

Phone: 020 7566 2345

Monday-Friday, 8.30am-9pm

Saturday, 9am-5pm

Information and advice on eye conditions and treatments from experienced ophthalmic-trained nurses.

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

Phone: 020 7566 2324/ 020 7566 2325

Email: moorfields.pals@nhs.net

Moorfields' PALS team provides confidential advice and support to help you with any concerns you may have about the care we provide, guiding you through the different services available at Moorfields. The PALS team can also advise you on how to make a complaint.

Your right to treatment within 18 weeks

Under the NHS constitution, all patients have the right to begin consultant-led treatment within 18 weeks of being referred by their GP. Moorfields is committed to fulfilling this right, but if you feel that we have failed to do so, please contact our patient advice and liaison service (PALS) who will be able to advise you further (see above). For more information about your rights under the NHS constitution, visit www.nhs.uk/choiceinthenhs