



L V Prasad Eye Institute

Child Sight  
Institute

# Pediatric Cataract



**Tina and Rinku were friends.  
They both studied in the same class.  
One day in the classroom,**

**Tina:** Oh! Rinku I am unable to see the letters on the blackboard clearly.

**Rinku:** Is that true? Then I think you must tell the teacher about it.

Rinku informed the teacher about Tina's problem.

**Teacher:** Oh really? Come and sit close to the board, maybe you will be able to see then.

**Tina:** No teacher, I have been facing this problem since last 2 weeks...

**Teacher:** Ok, did you tell your parents about it Tina? If not, you should do it today itself.

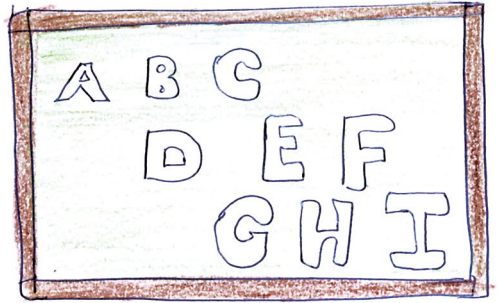
**That evening at home, Tina was very sad.**

**Tina's mother:** Hey Tina, what happened to you? Why are you sad?

**Tina:** Mommy, I was unable to read the letters in the classroom.

**Mother:** Oh, was it? Ok, Tina, don't worry, we will go to the eye specialist.

Classroom



At home



## The next day, at the eye hospital,

**Mother:** Hello doctor, my child is unable to read the letters on the blackboard and she says that this has been there since the last 2 weeks.

**Doctor:** Hmm...Come on Tina let me take a look at your eyes.

After testing Tina's eyes,

**Doctor:** Tina is unable to read the letters because she has got cataract in her eyes.

**Mother:** What is it doctor?

**Doctor:** When the natural lens inside the eye becomes white and loses its transparency, we call it cataract and this affects the vision. And in children it needs urgent treatment.

**Mother:** Oh really? Is that what my daughter has? Is it curable doctor?

**Doctor:** Yes, it is serious but the good news is it is curable.

**Mother:** How could we cure this?

**Doctor:** Cataract can be removed by performing a surgery. During the surgery, we will remove the affected lens and replace it with an artificial lens.

**Mother:** Oh!! My child will be able to see well after the surgery? I am very concerned about her eyes.

**Doctor:** You do not have to worry about her eyes now madam. We will take care of it. Tina will be able to see clearly again.

**Mother:** Thank you sir. When can we undergo surgery?

**Doctor:** As early as tomorrow.



**So here are some details about cataract in children.**

### **What is cataract?**

Cataract is opacification of the natural lens where the clear glass-like lens becomes white in color, loses its transparency and results in blurred vision, so it appears just like looking through a foggy morning.

### **Who can have cataract and how does it happen?**

Anybody may be affected with cataract. Children as young as new born to the elderly. Cataract in children specifically could be due to a genetic inheritance (if other family members are affected), due to infections during birth, injury to the eyes or usage of certain medications could also lead to cataract in children. Some children develop very early whereas some others develop it cataract as they grow up.

### How is cataract treated in children?

Cataract is usually treated by a surgery, during which, the cataract will be removed and it will be replaced by an artificial lens. In some children who are very young, where their eye size is very small, the artificial lens cannot be implanted. In this case, these children will have to undergo a second surgery when the eye size becomes adequate. The surgery will be performed under general anesthesia and therefore there will not be any pain to the child during the operation.

### Can we treat the cataract with eye drops, glasses, injections or tablets?

At this point of time there are no such treatments available to treat cataract.



### What will be the next course of action after the surgery?

Immediately after the surgery, eye drops will be prescribed. These drops are to be used very regularly as advised. Cleanliness of the eyes, hands and surroundings are very important to prevent immediate risk of developing an infection. After the surgery, regular follow up review as per the doctor's advice is important.

### Will there be a need for glasses after the surgery?

Yes. Children who undergo surgery without lens implantation will require thicker glasses temporarily or contact lenses. Those who undergo surgery with lens implant also will require glasses with normal power (thinner glasses). And some children will require eye exercises through patching therapy after the surgery.

### Will there be any complications after the surgery?

Every surgery has chances of complications or risks involved but most of these are very rare and avoidable.

### What are the complications that could occur after the surgery?

One could develop infection, increased eye pressure or develop membranes behind the implanted lens which is called as posterior capsular opacification (PCO). Infections could be avoided by maintaining cleanliness while using drops and touching the eyes. Increased pressure could be treated with eye drops and PCO can be treated with a small cleaning surgery or a laser in older children.

So the next day,

Tina underwent surgery with lens implantation. And she was able to regain her clear vision in the eyes.

**Tina :** Mommy I am able to see everything clearly now!!! Ohooo!!!

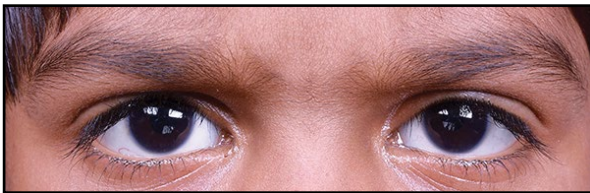
**Doctor:** Oh that is a great news Tina. Now make sure that you use the drops well and take some rest before you go to school. I will see you after one week .

Tina and her mother thanked the doctor and went home.

Tina now wants to become an eye doctor, and that too a children's eye specialist.



Before Surgery



After Surgery

# CHILDREN EYE SPECIALIST



class room...



L V Prasad Eye Institute

## Child Sight Institute

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