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**Vision Loss from Leading Cause of Blindness Can be Restored with Proper Treatment**

***- Prevent Blindness America Declares June as Cataract Awareness Month to Educate Public on Most Common Eye Disease -***

**CHICAGO (May 22, 2013)** – There are currently more than 24 million Americans age 40 and older who have cataract, according to the [Vision Problems in the U.S.](#) report from Prevent Blindness America. It is the leading cause of blindness worldwide.

Cataract is a clouding of the eye's lens which blocks or changes the passage of light into the eye. Unlike many eye diseases, however, vision loss due to cataract can be restored. Cataract surgery is one of the most commonly performed procedures in the United States and has a 95 percent success rate. And, a new [study](#) found that cataract surgery patients had a significantly reduced rate of hip fractures from falls.

To educate the public on cataract, Prevent Blindness America has declared June as Cataract Awareness Month. The national non-profit group provides free information through its dedicated web page at [preventblindness.org/cataract](http://preventblindness.org/cataract), or via phone at (800) 331-2020. For those interested in conducting discussions or seminars on the subject, PBA offers a free online module on cataract including a PowerPoint presentation with a complete guide as part of its [Healthy Eyes Educational Series](#).

Cataract generally does not cause pain, redness or tears. However, these changes in your vision may be signs of cataract:

- Blurred vision, double vision, ghost images, the sense of a "film" over the eyes.
- Lights seem too dim for reading or close-up work, or you are "dazzled" by strong light.
- Changing eyeglass prescriptions often. The change may not seem to help your vision.

- You may sometimes notice the cataract in your eye. It may look like a milky or yellowish spot in the pupil (the center of your eye is normally black).

“Although getting a cataract is common, it doesn’t have to mean permanent vision loss,” said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness America. “One way to protect our vision is to make a commitment to take care of our eyes today, including getting a dilated eye exam, so we can help protect our sight for the future not just from cataract, but other eye diseases as well.”

For free information on cataract including [Medicare coverage](#), please call Prevent Blindness America at (800) 331-2020 or log on to [preventblindness.org/ataract](http://preventblindness.org/ataract).

### **About Prevent Blindness America**

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness America is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness America touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, community and patient service programs and research. These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public. Together with a network of affiliates and regional offices, Prevent Blindness America is committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America. For more information, or to make a contribution to the sight-saving fund, call 1-800-331-2020. Or, visit us on the Web at [preventblindness.org](http://preventblindness.org) or [facebook.com/preventblindness](https://facebook.com/preventblindness).

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