Abstract

Cataract surgery performed to redress functional impairment due to cataract in the adult is the most common surgical procedure performed on Americans age 65 and over. As a result, cataract surgery is a significant item in the Medicare budget. It is important to recognize the impact of cataract-related disability on an individual's ability to function autonomously. The goal of the guideline is to promote appropriate management of adults with functional impairment due to cataract. The *Guideline Report* consists of recommendations for providing the highest quality of care, based on an extensive review of the relevant literature and on expert opinion and panel consensus. Functional impairment due to cataract is a broad topic that includes the following considerations: ethical issues, natural history and risk factors, access to and referral for care, setting of care, preoperative tests, various aspects of surgery and preoperative management, postoperative care, rehabilitation, and YAG capsulotomy. The *Guideline Report* is the basis for three companion publications that serve as references for clinicians and patients: the *Clinical Practice Guideline*, the *Quick Reference Guide for Clinicians*, and the *Patient's Guide*.

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The material identifying nonsurgical management and specific indications and contraindications for surgery for cataract patients (Chapter 6—Guideline: Treatment) and patient's condition at discharge, postoperative complications, postoperative visits, and postoperative examination (Chapter 7—Guideline: Postoperative Care) is from the *Preferred Practice Pattern, Cataract in the Otherwise Healthy Adult Eye,* published by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Copyright © 1990 American Academy of Ophthalmology. This material is used by permission of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and is not public domain material.