

# FACT: laser-assisted versus standard ultrasound cataract surgery

<b>Submission date</b> 28/11/2014	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 06/01/2015	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 01/02/2021	<b>Condition category</b> Eye Diseases	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

Cataracts are cloudy patches that develop in the lens of the eye and can cause blurred or misty vision. The only treatment that is proven to be effective for cataracts is surgery. Cataract surgery is the most commonly performed operation by the NHS with more than 310,000 operations performed in 2011-12. Cataracts are usually related to older age and as our population is ageing, we can expect the number of cataract operations to increase. While complication rates appear low, patients can be devastated when suffering a complication from surgery and due to the importance of vision for daily activities, can find even relatively minor complications distressing. This is a study comparing two different methods of cataract surgery. The current standard method is done by hand using ultrasound to break up the cataract. We want to compare this to a new technique using a computer-controlled laser system. The potential advantages of laser-assisted cataract surgery are that the steps completed by this method can be performed more precisely, more reliably and faster than they can be done by hand. This should translate to better visual outcomes and better patient safety as a result of fewer complications. The use of lasers in eye surgery is not new, and they have been used for surgery on the cornea (the structure at the front of the eye) for over a decade.

### Who can participate?

Adults aged 18 or over with age-related cataracts in one or both eyes.

### What does the study involve?

Participants will be randomly allocated so that half will have their cataract surgery done using the standard (ultrasound) method, and half will have the new laser-assisted method. The two types of surgery will be compared by looking at visual acuity, visual satisfaction through questionnaires, complications and health economic measures at 3 months following the first eye cataract surgery.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

We cannot promise that taking part in the study will benefit you, but by taking part you will be helping us find out how laser-assisted cataract surgery compares to the current standard method. The results of the study will help to plan cataract services offered by the NHS. The study findings will provide high quality evidence to NHS service providers, patients and eye

specialists about these two methods of cataract surgery and so help guide any possible introduction of laser cataract surgery in the NHS. Studies to date on laser cataract surgery have reported no overall difference in serious complications when compared to standard ultrasound cataract surgery. Serious complications for both types of surgery are uncommon, but if they do occur they can permanently damage your eye and your vision. For cataract surgery done by either study method, there is an average:

1. One in a thousand risk of severe and permanent visual loss
2. One in a hundred risk of requiring additional surgery to rectify a problem
3. One in twenty risk of less serious complications, which may require further treatment at the time of surgery or following the operation
4. One in ten risk of laser treatment at some time in the future for opacity of the capsule behind the implant

There is virtually no risk to the other eye

Where is the study run from?

The study will be carried out at two sites, one is a Community Hospital in North London (St. Ann's Hospital), and the second is a District General Hospital in the West Midlands (New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton).

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

The study will run from September 2014 to February 2018.

Who is funding the study?

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) (UK).

Who is the main contact?

Vicky McCudden (ctu.fact@ucl.ac.uk)

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## Contact information

### Type(s)

Public

### Contact name

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### Type(s)

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### Contact name

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### **Contact details**

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## **Additional identifiers**

### **Protocol serial number**

14/0609; HTA 13/04/46

## **Study information**

### **Scientific Title**

The FACT trial: a randomised comparison of Femtosecond laser-assisted vs. manual phacoemulsification Cataract surgery for adults with visually significant cataract

### **Acronym**

FACT

### **Study objectives**

The trial is a pragmatic, randomised controlled non-inferiority trial to determine if the proposed advantages of laser-assisted cataract surgery translates to real benefits for both patients and the NHS.

More details can be found at <http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/projects/hta/130446>

Protocol can be found at [http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/130670/PRO-13-04-46.pdf](http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/130670/PRO-13-04-46.pdf)

### **Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

### **Ethics approval(s)**

NRES Committee London - City Road & Hampstead, 06/02/2015, ref: 14/LO/1937

### **Study design**

Pragmatic randomised controlled non-inferiority trial

### **Primary study design**

Interventional

### **Study type(s)**

Treatment

### **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Symptomatic age-related cataract

## Interventions

Arm A: manual phacoemulsification cataract surgery in the study eye

Arm B: laser-assisted phacoemulsification cataract surgery in the study eye

## Intervention Type

Procedure/Surgery

## Primary outcome(s)

Unaided distance visual acuity (UDVA, logMAR) at 3 months following surgery in the study eye measured using a standard ETDRS chart at a distance of 4 metres

## Key secondary outcome(s)

1. Unaided distance visual acuity (UDVA) in the study eye at 12 months after surgery
2. Corrected distance visual acuity (logMAR) at 3 and 12 months after surgery in the study eye (ETDRS logMAR chart at 4 metres)
3. Ocular complications within 3 and 12 months of surgery in the study eye (and second eye). A complication will be defined as any event that causes unintentional injury to an ocular structure, or requires additional treatment, or has a negative effect on a patient's health or eyesight
4. Unaided and corrected visual distance acuity and complications in the second eye (for those with bilateral cataracts), and with both eyes open at 3 and 12 months after surgery
5. Percentage of patients within 0.5 and within 1 dioptre of intended refractive outcome
6. Patient-reported outcomes measures: vision health status using Rasch validated patient-reported outcome measures at 3 and 12 months: (Catquest-9SF)
7. Cost-utility analysis: within-trial cost-effectiveness analyses at 3 and 12 months and expected cost-effectiveness over patient lifetime. The analysis will conform to accepted economic evaluation methods and will use the EQ-5D-3L+vision bolt-on question (EQ-5DV)
8. Corneal endothelial cell count change (additional safety measure) at 3 and 12 months

## Completion date

28/02/2018

## Eligibility

### Key inclusion criteria

1. Adults aged 18 or over with symptomatic age-related cataract, one or both eyes
2. Patients must be sufficiently fluent in English to provide informed consent and completion of the patient-reported outcome measures
3. Patients must be willing to attend for follow up at 3 and 12 months after first eye cataract surgery

### Participant type(s)

Patient

### Healthy volunteers allowed

No

### Age group

Adult

### Lower age limit

18 years

**Sex**

All

**Total final enrolment**

785

**Key exclusion criteria**

1. Secondary causes of cataract
2. Previous cataract, corneal or glaucoma surgery
3. Patient unable to give consent or unable to attend follow-up assessment
4. Patient unable to be positioned for surgery
5. Patient scheduled to undergo combined surgery, e.g. cataract and trabeculectomy
6. Previously identified poor pupil dilation
7. Post-operative intended refractive target is not between (+0.50 and -0.50 dioptres) for the study eye

**Date of first enrolment**

01/05/2015

**Date of final enrolment**

31/08/2016

**Locations**

**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

**Study participating centre**

**St. Ann's Hospital**

St. Ann's Road  
London  
United Kingdom  
N15 3TH

**Study participating centre**

**New Cross Hospital**

Wednesfield Road  
Heath Road  
Wolverhampton  
United Kingdom  
WV10 0QP

# Sponsor information

## Organisation

University College London

## ROR

<https://ror.org/02jx3x895>

# Funder(s)

## Funder type

Government

## Funder Name

National Institute for Health Research

## Alternative Name(s)

National Institute for Health Research, NIHR Research, NIHRresearch, NIHR - National Institute for Health Research, NIHR (The National Institute for Health and Care Research), NIHR

## Funding Body Type

Government organisation

## Funding Body Subtype

National government

## Location

United Kingdom

# Results and Publications

## Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

## IPD sharing plan summary

Other

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Results article</a>	results	01/08/2020	11/05/2020	Yes	No
<a href="#">Results article</a>	results	01/01/2021	01/02/2021	Yes	No

<a href="#">Protocol article</a>	protocol	27/11/2015	Yes	No
<a href="#">HRA research summary</a>			28/06/2023	No