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cited in Colwell V. Bannister, No. 12-15844 archived on Septem

Statistic Verification

Source: Center for Disease Control, Medicare

Date Verified: 7.28.2013

A cataract is a clouding that develops in the crystalline lens of the eye or in its lens capsule, varying in degree from slight to complete opacity and obstructing the passage of light. Cataracts typically progress slowly to cause vision loss, and are potentially blinding if untreated. The condition usually affects both eyes, but almost always one eye is affected earlier than the other. Several factors can cause cataracts, including long-term exposure to ultraviolet light, exposure to ionizing radiation, secondary effects of diseases such as diabetes, hypertension and advanced age, or trauma; they are usually a result of denaturation of lens protein.

Cataract Statistics	
Number of Americans age 40 and older who are affected by Cataracts	20.5 million
Percent of Americans age 80 and older who have Cataracts	50 %
Annual amount spent by the federal government to treat cataracts through Medicare	\$3.4 billion
Cataract Surgery Statistics	

Average cost of cataract surgery per eye	\$3,279
Number of Americans who have cataract surgery each year	3,000,000
Success rate of cataract surgery	98 %
Percent of patients had no severe postoperative complications	99.5 %

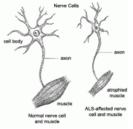
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