

Title	High Volume Cataract Service
Organisation	Eerste River Hospital, Western Cape Province
Innovation	<p>The hospital uses a high turn-over system in theatre where there are two theatre beds next to each other. While the surgeon is operating on one patient, the next patient is in the other bed being prepared for surgery. The eye is anaesthetised by a second doctor, in the hospital's case an ophthalmic medical officer, and the patient is draped for surgery when the surgeon is finishing off with the other patient. The surgeon then changes gloves while keeping his gown sterile and immediately starts operating on the next patient. This cuts out turn-over time and dramatically increases the number of patients that can be operated on one slate with one surgeon.</p> <p>By increasing cataract surgery rate with the unique two bed system in theatre, the productivity of the surgeon and nursing staff is much higher and the cost of consumables much cheaper. The hospital is able to do 2 600 cataract operations per year with only two full-time Ophthalmologists and one full-time medical officer and one operating theatre.</p> <p>The innovation was adapted from the system used by ARAVIND Eye Hospital Group in India.</p>
Impact	<p>The waiting time for cataract surgery in the metropole has decreased dramatically since Eerste River Hospital eye clinic became operational. They are also able to help patients much sooner, before patients lose their vision while on the waiting list. The patient does not have to be completely blind they are considered for surgery, which was the case when waiting lists were long.</p> <p>The hospital has added 2 600 cataract operations per year to the total number of cataract surgeries performed in Cape Town Metropole. The current cataract surgery rate is 5 200 operations per year and the Hospital is contributing half to this total figure.</p>