**Supplementary**

**Figure S1** Age of patients at the day of cataract surgery. The patients’ age in years indicated by the blue dot.

| Risk characteristics                                      | A             | B             | C             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| None of the below                                          | Resident      | Specialist    | Senior        |
| Permanent vision loss in another eye                      |               |               |               |
| Young patient (<60 y)                                     |               |               |               |
| Excessive hyperopia (≥4D) or myopia (≥6D)                 |               |               |               |
| Tremor                                                    |               |               |               |
| Alpha-1 blockers due to BPH                               |               |               |               |
| Prior vitrectomy or filtration surgery                    |               |               |               |
| Corneal opacities                                         |               |               |               |
| Shallow anterior chamber                                  |               |               |               |
| Small pupil in mydriasis                                  |               |               |               |
| Mature cataract                                            |               |               |               |
| Pseudoexfoliation                                         |               |               |               |
| Phacodonesis                                              |               |               |               |
| Comments of the referring doctor                          |               |               |               |
| Multiple above-mentioned risk factors                     |               |               |               |

Level of required competency A (resident; green), B (specialist; yellow), C (senior; red) based upon structured cataract surgery referral. BPH, benign prostatic hyperplasia.
### Table S2 Surgical phase at which posterior capsule rupture/loss of capsular bag support noticed

| Variables          | Phaco | I/A | IOL | NA |
|--------------------|-------|-----|-----|----|
| 8/2009-7/2010      | 33    | 27  | 27  | 13 |
| 8/2010-7/2011      | 50    | 20  | 0   | 30 |
| 8/2011-7/2012      | 36    | 14  | 14  | 36 |
| 8/2012-7/2013      | 65    | 15  | 5   | 15 |
| 8/2013-7/2014      | 67    | 24  | 5   | 5 |
| 8/2014-7/2015      | 54    | 25  | 7   | 14 |
| 8/2015-7/2016      | 50    | 35  | 0   | 15 |
| 8/2016-7/2017      | 33    | 33  | 0   | 33 |

Data are given as proportion (%). I/A, irrigation aspiration; IOL, intraocular lens implantation; NA, not specified/other; phaco, phacoemulsification.

### Table S3 Clinical characteristics of patients with complications according to the surgeon experience

| Time period       | Resident | Non-resident | P   |
|-------------------|----------|--------------|-----|
| Age (y)           | 83.8±7.3 | 82.4±10.6    | 0.356 |
| Male:female (%)   | 20:80    | 34:66        | 0.053 |
| Small Pupil (%)   | 7        | 21           | 0.010* |
| PXF (%)           | 11       | 29           | 0.007* |

Data are given as mean ± SD and range or proportions (%). Data was analysed with the Student’s t-test for normally distributed continuous variables and the Mann-Whitney U test for nonparametric variables. Categorical data were analyzed with the two-factor c² test. BCVA; best-corrected visual acuity, PXF; pseudoexfoliation syndrome. *, P≤0.05 was considered statistically significant.

### Table S4 Clinical characteristics of patients with complications according to the surgical phase

| Variables          | Phaco | I&A | IOL implantation | P   |
|--------------------|-------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| Baseline           |       |     |                   |     |
| Small pupil (%)    | 16    | 15  | 0                 | 0.554 |
| PXF (%)            | 23    | 24  | 10                | 0.787 |
| IOL position       |       |     |                   |     |
| AC                 | 43    | 29  | 10                | 0.094 |
| Sulcus             | 51    | 65  | 70                | 0.285 |
| OC                 | 5     | 6   | 20                | 0.223 |
| Post-operative     |       |     |                   |     |
| No of post-op visits (n) | 4.8±3.2 | 3.7±2.2 | 4.8±2.2 | NS |
| BCVA at last post-op visit (decimals) | 0.61±0.28 | 0.67±0.26 | 0.68±0.31 | 0.631 |

Data are given as mean ± SD and range or proportions (%). Multiple groups were compared with the one-way ANOVA test using Bonferroni correction for parametric variables, with the Kruskall-Wallis test with Dunn correction for non-parametric variables and with the Fisher-Freeman-Halton test for qualitative data. AC, anterior chamber; BCVA, best-corrected visual acuity; I&A, irrigation & aspiration; IOL, intraocular lens; PXF, pseudoexfoliation syndrome; OC, optic capture; NS, non-significant.
Table S5 Clinical characteristics of patients with complications according to the IOL positioning

| Variables                        | AC-IOL− | AC-IOL+ | P     |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|-------|
| **Baseline**                     |         |         |       |
| Small pupil (%)                  | 9       | 24      | 0.013*|
| PXF (%)                          | 9       | 42      | <0.001*|
| **Post-operative**               |         |         |       |
| No of post-op visits (n)         | 3.8±2.1 | 5.2±3.5 | 0.006*|
| BCVA at last post-op visit (decimals) | 0.71±0.23 | 0.46±0.27 | <0.001*|

Data are given as mean ± SD and range or proportions (%). Data was analysed with the Student’s t-test for normally distributed continuous variables and the Mann-Whitney U test for nonparametric variables. Categorical data were analyzed with the two-factor c² test. AC, anterior chamber; BCVA, best-corrected visual acuity; IOL, intraocular lens; PXF, pseudoexfoliation syndrome. *, P≤0.05 was considered statistically significant.