All clear corneal incisions were made by one surgeon (IHF). OCT images of each operative eye were taken on the first postoperative day, within 24 hours of cataract surgery, and are representative of multiple images from multiple patients. Incision width is defined as the measurement parallel to the limbus. Incision length is the distance, in a straight line, between the external incision and the entrance through Descemet’s membrane. A variety of knives were used to create the clear corneal incisions during cataract surgery.

As seen in Figures 15-4 and 15-5, which were taken on the first day postoperatively, the clear corneal incision is actually curvilinear, not a straight line, as seen in the artist’s depiction of clear corneal incisions (see Figure 15-1). It is an arcuate incision which is considerably longer than the chord length originally estimated for the length of the incision. It is very important to note that the architecture of the incision allows for a fit not unlike tongue-and-groove paneling, which adds a measure of stability to these incisions and makes sliding of one surface over the other considerably less likely.

Figure 15-6 shows an incision that was made with a 300 μm groove at the external edge of the incision prior to incision construction. The incision itself still has a similar curved or arcuate configuration, but the gaping of the external groove, which is noted on the first day postoperatively, is accompanied by a similar offset of the internal lips of the incision, which appears to be somewhat less stable than a paracentesis-style incision.