

MEDIA RELEASE

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Genesys offers new cataract lens implant; Lens minimizes dependence on glasses

(Editor's note: if you are interested in interviewing an ophthalmologist who conducts the procedure at Genesys, and a patient who received the lens, call the Genesys Marketing department at 810-606-7399.)

(Flint, MI) A revolutionary advancement in cataract surgery that greatly decreases dependence on glasses now is available at Genesys. Jeffrey Diskin, MD, ophthalmologist on staff at Genesys, recently conducted the first AcrySof ReSTOR intraocular lens surgery in the area. The FDA approved the procedure a few months ago.

Clinical results of this surgery show that 84 percent of patients receiving the lens in both eyes achieved distance visual acuity of 20/25 or better and near visual acuity of 20/32 or better without glasses or contact lenses. Near visual acuity of 20/32 means patients can read the very small stock quotes in the newspaper.

According to Gary Keoleian, MD, ophthalmologist on staff at Genesys who is certified to conduct the procedure, "this lens is a significant advancement in cataract and vision correction surgery. We now are able to offer patients the improved quality of life afforded by cataract surgery, plus the benefit of functional vision for reading and distance work without glasses. Other vision correction procedures offer either distance correction or near correction, but not both.

"Intraocular lens technology has taken a giant leap forward with the ReSTOR lens," he adds. "No longer is the objective simply to remove the cataract and improve vision with glasses. Now, our goal is to enhance vision and minimize dependence on reading glasses or bifocals."

The ReSTOR lens is an implant that provides a full range of vision, decreasing dependency on reading glasses or bifocals. It also corrects distance, intermediate vision and near vision. FDA clinical trial data show that the ReSTOR lens outperforms all other lens alternatives for distance and near vision.

Other FDA clinical results show the following:

80 percent of patients don't need glasses
93 percent of patients report never needing glasses for distance vision
87 percent of patients report never needing glasses for near vision

The procedure, conducted on an outpatient basis, usually requires a few hours of time from start to finish. The patient's eye is treated with anesthetic prior to the procedure to relieve discomfort. First, the ophthalmologist makes a tiny incision in the eye where a small instrument - about the size of a pen tip - is used to break up or wash away the cloudy cataract. Once the cataract is removed, the ReSTOR lens is inserted through the same tiny incision and set into its permanent position. After the patient returns home, the ophthalmologist will re-exam the patient's eye within 24 hours. Most patients will see well enough to return to most of their daily activities the day after surgery.

A cataract - a clouding of the natural lens inside the eye - can be the reason sharp images become blurred, bright colors become dull, or seeing at night becomes more difficult. It also may be the reason for using reading glasses or bifocals to read or perform other simple tasks. Unfortunately, cataracts cannot be prevented; in 90 percent of cases they are caused by the aging process. Removing the cataract, however, and replacing it with an artificial lens can restore vision.

For more information on the ReSTOR lens, call ophthalmologists Jeffrey Diskin, MD; or Gary Keoleian, MD; at (810) 733-7111.

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