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## Pacific Vision Institute -- new for myopia

KeraVisionR Intacs corneal ring segments are the first FDA-approved, non-laser surgical treatment in the United States for the correction of mild myopia (nearsightedness). These clear, ultra-thin, precision-engineered crescents are placed in the cornea, which is a clear dome, shaped window at the front of the eye.

An estimated 20 million adult Americans have mild nearsightedness (roughly speaking 20/80 to 20/300 vision), which is the treatment range for Intacs. This range includes people requiring from - 1.0 to -3.0 diopters of myopic correction. Intacs are designed especially for this group - the largest segment of nearsighted adults in the United States.

In U.S. clinical studies, 74 percent of Intacs patients achieved 20/20 vision or better and 97 percent achieved 20/40 or better (the vision standard for receiving a driver's license in most states). A total of 53 percent achieved at least 20/16 vision, which is considered better than "normal" vision. Excellent vision is achieved because the procedure maintains the natural aspheric shape of the cornea.

The 15-minute procedure causes minimal discomfort and requires only topical anesthetic eye drops in most cases. Visual recovery is rapid. In cases in which Intacs

were removed, eyes returned to their pre-operative refraction by three months in most cases.

Polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA), of which Intacs are composed, is the same polymer which has been safely used for nearly 50 years in procedures to correct cataracts. Intacs consist of two clear, extremely fine strips of transparent material that are applied to the periphery of the cornea.

"Much like LASIK and PRK procedures, Intacs will appeal to people who are nearsighted, who lead active lifestyles, and who don't want to trouble with their glasses or contact lenses," said Dr. Faktorovich, Director of the Pacific Vision Institute in San Francisco. "In the hands of an experienced surgeon, state-of-the-art procedures like these are highly effective."

LASIK is a procedure in which an excimer laser is used to reshape the cornea so that images can focus directly on the retina. LASIK can correct mild, moderate, and high levels of nearsightedness, as well as farsightedness and astigmatism.

PRK applies an excimer laser directly to the outer surface of the cornea to reshape it. PRK can correct mild levels of nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism.