

Sophisticated Lens Helps Cataract Patients

No Need For Glasses

 By Dr. Dean Edell

Nov. 16 - KGO - A new eye lens which incorporate sophisticated technology is helping cataract patients get much better vision. The lens may soon provide patients of all ages with less dependence on glasses.

Art is a way of life to Linda Eckmann, a well-recognized Bay Area artist. So when her eyes became blurry, she became deeply concerned.

Linda Eckmann, artist: "I do these small little things, and it requires certain kind of coordination and the ability to see. And I couldn't see it."

She started creating larger and larger art pieces with less detail, but the cloudiness increased.

Linda Eckmann, artist: "I started to really panic, because I noticed the changes happening every few weeks. I could notice significantly differences in the vision, and that's when I ran to the doctor."

Up to now, most doctors would replace a cataract patient's cloudy lens with a single-distance lens that let them see the distance clearly, but patients would still need reading glasses to see close up. This new, accommodating lens changes all that.

Ophthalmologist Barry Seibel of Pacific Vision Institute says the new ReStor lens is a major step forward.

Barry Seibel, M.D., Pacific Vision Institute ophthalmologist: "What we've been able to do with this new technology now is return their eye to a function that's more similar to what they were decades younger."

The secret is in the circles embedded in the lens. A television light employs similar technology - you can see the circles on its lens. As the light sources changes position, the circles in the lens change the focus of the light rays. The ReStor lens does the same thing.

Barry Seibel, M.D., Pacific Vision Institute ophthalmologist: "By having these rings on it, they function to split the light into distance and near images, and decides - depending on how large your pupil is - how much of each will get presented to your eye."

So most patients can see far and close-up without reading glasses.

Barry Seibel, M.D., Pacific Vision Institute ophthalmologist: "For example, in the FDA studies patients did not need glasses 80-percent of the time."

That's right - most did not need reading glasses at all. Baby boomers without cataracts may be the next candidates.

Barry Seibel, M.D., Pacific Vision Institute ophthalmologist: "I think that that's going to be the wave of the future."

Linda's already had one lens done, so during a brief operation Dr. Seibel removes Linda's other cataract, and then carefully inserts the new lens.

A few minutes after surgery, he puts her new vision to the test. Looking at the clock on the wall, then reading a book cover - and she can see the fine print. That's impressive.

Experts say many older cataract patients getting the new implantable lenses often have better vision than their middle-aged



Sidebar:

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