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IN THE NEWS

DOCTOR AT PACIFIC VISION INSTITUTE BRINGS INTACS™ TO BAY AREA RESIDENTS Ella G. Faktorovich, M.D. , Estimates Over 500,000 Local Candidates

San Francisco, Calif. --June 25, 1999 -- Ella G. Faktorovich, M.D., director of the Pacific Vision Institute and one of only a few surgeons in the U.S. to specialize exclusively in laser and refractive surgery vision correction, is the first ophthalmologist in private practice to offer Intacs™ in San Francisco. Approved by the FDA this April, the non-laser procedure can treat mild and moderate amounts of nearsightedness (myopia).

"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. "In the hands of an experienced surgeon, state-of-the-art procedures like these are highly effective."

Intacs are clear, ultra-thin polymer crescents that reshape the cornea, allowing patients with nearsightedness to see clearly. Unlike other surgical procedures, the Intacs can be removed, thereby reversing the treatment. Dr. Faktorovich explains that removing the Intacs may become desirable as the patient's vision changes with age or in the event the patient wants to use different alternatives in the future.

"An ideal candidate for Intacs is mildly nearsighted and is interested in trying out clear, natural vision," said Dr. Faktorovich. "Should he or she later decide to remove the Intacs, their eyes will return to their former refraction within three months, in most cases."

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Faktorovich / Page Two About Dr. Faktorovich

Ella G. Faktorovich, M.D. is the director of the Pacific Vision Institute in San Francisco. During her ophthalmology residency at the University of California, San Francisco, Dr. Faktorovich developed new techniques for retinal transplantation and pioneered sight-saving medications for patients with retinal degeneration. She completed a fellowship in refractive and corneal surgery at the Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA School of Medicine, where she also served as an assistant visiting professor. Dr. Faktorovich teaches other ophthalmologists corneal surgery and other refractive techniques and has lectured extensively, both in the U.S. and abroad. In addition, she has published numerous articles and abstracts on eye biology, laser vision correction and refractive surgery and is on the editorial board for the San Francisco Medical Society Magazine. Dr. Faktorovich is also the chief clinical consultant for Intraocular Refractive Research, Inc.

About Intacs™ (Intracorneal Ring Segments)

Intacs consist of two clear, extremely fine strips of transparent material that are applied to the periphery of the cornea in order to correct mild nearsightedness.

About LASIK (Laser-in-situ Keratomileusis)

LASIK uses an excimer laser to reshape the cornea so that images can focus directly on the retina. The laser reshapes inner layers of the cornea with precision accuracy in increments of less than .25 microns (one-tenth the thickness of human hair). LASIK can correct mild, moderate, and high levels nearsightedness, as well as farsightedness and astigmatism.

About PRK (Photorefractive Keratectomy)

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

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INTACS™ FOR MYOPIA OVERVIEW

Description

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

Who They Treat

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.

CONTACT FORM

Our contact information, hours of operation, and a form to send us a message.



Intacs are designed especially for this group -- the largest segment of nearsighted adults in the U.S.

Benefits

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, requiring only topical anesthetic eye drops in most cases. Visual recovery is rapid.

In cases where Intacs were removed, eyes returned to their preoperative refraction by three months in most instances.

Composition

Polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA) is the same polymer that has been safely used in eyes for nearly 50 years in procedures to correct cataracts.

* Based on U.S. clinical data for 410 Intacs myopia treatments within the range of -1.0 to -3.5 diopters and monitored for 12 months, as reported to the FDA in KeraVision's Pre-Market Approval (PMA) application.