

Lansing man “sees” the benefits of TLC’s Custom LASIK technology

Thirty-four year old Tom Daniels had the vision of a man twice his age before undergoing the most advanced form of LASIK eye surgery – Custom LASIK. Not only was he hampered by poor vision – he felt hindered by contacts that kept him from doing simple things like swimming. “You can’t swim with contacts and when you take them out then you can’t see,” said Daniels a resident of Lansing who admits he grew tired of approaches that stabilized his changing vision rather than improving it.

Having worn glasses since middle school, then progressing to contacts, Daniels said he still wasn’t satisfied with the degree to which they improved his vision so he started looking into LASIK eye surgery. Several of his friends underwent the procedure and it was their success stories that prompted him to get more serious about permanently improving his vision. “You only get one set of eyes,” said Daniels, “so I wanted to be sure I learned everything I could before I had surgery.”

FIRST STEP

Last year Daniels first consulted with one of three ophthalmologists at the TLC Eyecare & Laser Center in Okemos. Drs. Paul H. Ernest, M.D.; Kevin Lavery, M.D.; and Marcus Rhem, M.D., had the certifications, experience and advanced training that convinced Daniels to undergo the procedure.

“The whole thing took about 15 minutes and they talked me through everything they were going to do and how long the laser would be on each eye,” remembers Daniels. “As soon as I sat up I could see a huge improvement.”

What has the Lansing resident seeing clearly is the newest and most advanced laser eye technology available today. Daniels is seeing better than he has since he was a child thanks to the TLC True Custom LASIK that enabled his Okemos ophthalmologist to “customize” his treatment for the best results possible.

Approved by the Food and Drug Administration on May 27, 2003, TLC’s True Custom LASIK provides the most exact measurement possible of a person’s eyes so that the corrective procedure can truly be tailored to the specific vision needs of that patient.

The procedure is performed under local eyedrop anesthesia and recovery time is minimal. Improvements in vision are almost instantaneous in some cases and even greater and more stable just a few weeks after the surgery. Because TLC Eyecare & Laser Centers are committed to consistent and long-lasting results, they continue to consult with patients over a 12-month period following the surgery to supervise the healing process.

Not only are individuals singing the praises and seeing the results but ophthalmologists across the country are treating otherwise untreatable patients because of the accuracy the laser eye technology provides.

Up until now the treatments for a patient’s eye conditions were quite similar which left many people, with particularly poor vision or unique vision problems, out of luck.

“Even a slight improvement means a lot to certain people,” said prominent ophthalmologist and founder of TLC Eye Care of Michigan, Dr. Paul Ernest.

TECHNOLOGY

Jeff Varanelli, regional clinical director at TLC Eyecare & Laser Centers explains that TLC True Custom LASIK utilizes a wave front analyzer to measure the way “light travels through the patient’s eye and compares it to the way light travels through an eye with perfect vision. “This device then creates a 3-D wavefront map that is unique to the eye in the same way that DNA is unique to one and only one human being,” said Varanelli.

The precise measurement generated by True Custom LASIK provides a custom mapping of the eye, much like a human’s unique fingerprint. The 3-D map of the exact corneal reshaping needed is then transmitted to the laser surgery equipment, allowing the surgeon to customize the LASIK procedure to the patient’s individual eye.

While ophthalmologists who treat patients with conventional LASIK have made great progress in the just the past five years, True Custom LASIK expands the horizons not only visually for patients but also for physicians who were often limited in their ability to help people with higher-order aberrations. Attempts to correct these conditions included glasses, contacts or conventional LASIK – all providing some degree of improvement but not to the degree custom LASIK now achieves.

“These higher-order aberrations also can have a significant impact on the quality of a person’s vision,” added Varanelli, “and are often associated with visual glare and halos that might cause night vision problems.” By treating higher-order aberrations as well, True Custom LASIK not only potentially improves visual acuity better than 20/20, but also the overall quality of vision is improved through crisper vision and enhanced contrast sensitivity.”

The laser technology used in the field of vision correction today is producing astounding results. That however, doesn’t mean every single person with a vision problem is a candidate. Persons with eye diseases such as glaucoma and cataracts may be poor candidates. You are advised to consult with a reputable and licensed ophthalmologist about your vision and the possible corrective measures that may be explored.

There are risk factors that should be weighed when you are considering surgery. Some patient’s experience halos and starbursts when driving at night as well as dry eyes that require the use of artificial tear drops. By consulting with a trained and experienced physician like those at the TLC Eyecare & Laser Center in Okemos, you can reduce the risk of complications and look forward to a clearer and brighter future.

As the technology and laser instrumentation has improved they have placed these newer laser systems in a network of TLC centers throughout Michigan including Lansing, Okemos, Jackson, Farmington Hills, Battle Creek, Chelsea, Kalamazoo, Ann Arbor and Windsor, Ontario. The multiple sites and laser systems give the surgeon the advantage of selecting the single unique laser system that is appropriate for each patient.

No one knows that better than Daniels. “I can’t tell you how this has changed my life,” said Daniels. “I have near perfect vision and I would do it over again without a second thought. The difference between how I used to see wearing contacts compared to now that I’ve had the surgery is amazing. I see so much better.”

To learn more about a TLC Center near you visit www.tlcmi.com or call (800) 551-7347. The Web site features links such as “Ask the Doctor” and “Find a Doctor” and gives individuals the opportunity to watch a LASIK surgery. TLC Okemos is located at 2211 Association Drive, Okemos; and TLC Lansing, 1515 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing.