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TLC Eyecare & Laser Centers NOW OFFERS AcrySof Toric IOL

Restoring Quality of Life through Better Vision.

Ann Arbor, Michigan (October 25, 2007) – TLC Eyecare & Laser Centers

announces the AcrySof Toric IOL procedure to treat cataracts. Today, good vision after cataract surgery is more important than ever. It is vital that people with cataracts spend time with their surgeons, so that each understands the other. Patients must make clear to the surgeon what ranges of vision are important to them - close up if they are card players or crossword-puzzle solvers, middle distance if they need to read recipes or food labels, and so on. Some may wish to leave their glasses home most of the time. Others may want to drive at night.

Given this information, it is then the job of the surgeon to lay out options clearly for the patient, and to give honest advice about which lens will provide the best results for what that person wants to do after surgery. More than half of Americans 65 and older have cataracts. As the eye's natural lens becomes opaque with aging, cloudy vision results.

This clouded lens is called a cataract. Surgical removal of the cloudy lens and replacement with a clear man-made lens, called an intraocular lens or IOL, has been the cornerstone of cataract care for decades. Until recently, IOLs allowed the eye to focus only at one distance - usually, far away. This meant that after cataract surgery patients could see only at a distance without their glasses. For near vision tasks (like reading a newspaper or seeing a restaurant menu) or middle vision tasks (like seeing a car dashboard or reading prices in a grocery store), they needed glasses.

Today, as people stay active into their 70s, 80s and even 90s - well past the time when cataracts occur - they want high quality vision and greater independence from glasses after surgery so they can maintain the lifestyles to which they are accustomed. Currently, new IOL technologies are presenting exciting options for people with cataracts. These new technologies may provide better vision after cataract surgery than traditional single-focus lenses.

Improving Vision for People with Astigmatism

Many people with cataracts also have astigmatism, an irregularity in the cornea or the natural lens that makes vision blurry. Traditional cataract IOLs do not correct astigmatism. This means people with astigmatism before cataract surgery will still have to wear glasses to see clearly at any distance after the surgery.

The AcrySof[®] Toric[®] IOL is an excellent choice for many cataract patients with astigmatism. It corrects pre-existing astigmatism and results in significantly more

freedom from glasses after surgery. Some patients need the toric lens implanted in one eye; others may need it in both. Dr. Paul Ernest of our Jackson, MI TLC Eyecare & Laser Center says “Generally, in our practice one in three patients is suitable for the Toric lens”. People who have had this lens implanted in both eyes have greater freedom from glasses than people with traditional lens implants. In a study, 97% of patients with the Toric AcrySof did not need glasses to see far away. Most still need glasses to see up close, but for sports and other distance vision activities they can do without glasses.

TLC Eyecare & Laser Centers is North America's premier eye care services company, providing eye doctors with the tools and technologies needed to deliver high-quality patient care. Through its centers management, and technology access service models, extensive optometric relationships, aggressive consumer advertising and managed care contracting strength, TLC Eyecare & Laser Centers maintains leading positions in Refractive, Cataract and Eye Care markets. More information about TLC Eyecare & Laser Centers can be found on the website at www.tlceyecare.com.