



June 21, 2005

MEDIA CONTACT:

Andrea Eliscu

407-629-0062/mmiandrea@sprintmail.com

CENTRAL FLORIDA OPHTHALMOLOGIST AMONG FIRST IN U.S. TO USE NEW INTRAOCULAR LENS FOR CATARACT PATIENTS THAT REDUCES DEPENDENCY ON GLASSES

ORLANDO, Fla. – David B. Auerbach, D.O. of Eye Physicians of Central Florida has performed the area's first cataract surgery using the new AcrySof® ReSTOR® intraocular lens, a breakthrough technology that enhances vision and may help patients to see clearly at all distances without bifocals or reading glasses.

Most patients undergoing cataract surgery today receive monofocal intraocular lenses, which typically provide excellent distance vision but still require them to wear reading glasses or bifocals for near vision. The AcrySof® ReSTOR® lens from Alcon, Inc., approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in March 2005, is inserted using the same minimally invasive, outpatient cataract surgical procedure that has been performed for more than 20 years. In clinical trials, 80 percent of patients who received the new lens reported "never" wearing glasses for any activities following bilateral cataract surgery. By comparison, only eight percent of patients who received the traditional monofocal lenses eliminated their need for glasses.

"This innovative lens really takes cataract surgery to the next level, more accurately restoring vision and providing many patients with visual freedom" said Dr. Auerbach. "It is truly life-changing."

Winter Park resident Don DeGraw, a recent retiree and avid reader, received the new lens in his right eye June 16, and Dr. Auerbach will perform surgery on his left eye June 30. Prior to the surgery, DeGraw had to wear reading glasses and use a magnifying glass just to read the newspaper every morning. The day after

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1514 Lake Daniel Drive • Orlando, Florida 32804
PO Box 547478 • Orlando, Florida 32854-7478
407.629.0062 • Fax: 407.629.0450 • E-Mail: mmiandrea@sprintmail.com

surgery he was able to see the paper clearly without any assistance and also read the street signs as his wife drove him to his post-operative appointment.

“For me, it is a miracle,” said DeGraw. “I depend on my eyes for everything I enjoy – reading, wood working and golf. In fact, I had to give up my golf game in recent years because I couldn’t see well enough. Now I’m looking forward to getting on the course again.”

A cataract is a “clouding” of the eye’s natural lens, which results in blurred or unfocused vision. Cataracts cannot be prevented and are the leading cause of treatable blindness worldwide. According to a recent article published in the *Archives of Ophthalmology*, more than 20 million adults in the U.S. have developed cataracts, making it the country’s number one cause of poor vision. While not all cataracts require surgery, nearly 3 million cataract procedures are performed annually in the U.S.

AcrySof® ReSTOR® is a foldable intraocular lens with a unique optic design that uses a combination of three complementary technologies: apodization, diffraction and refraction to achieve a wide range of vision. Apodization improves image quality by optimizing light energy delivered to the retina, distributing the appropriate amounts of light to both near and distant focal points, regardless of the lighting situation. A total of 566 patients received the AcrySof® ReSTOR® lens in clinical trials. Since its introduction outside the United States in 2003, more than 11,000 of the lenses have been implanted in patients by more than 900 surgeons in Europe and other countries. In May, Medicare issued a new policy providing its beneficiaries access to the AcrySof® ReSTOR® lens. Medicare will continue its existing reimbursement amounts for cataract surgery, and patients may elect to pay additional charges to receive this new lens.

Board-certified by the American Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology, Dr. Auerbach is a member of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons. He joined Eye Physicians of Central Florida in 2001 and has performed thousands of cataract procedures over the past nine years. Dr. Auerbach is also fellowship trained in neuro-ophthalmology and ophthalmic plastic and cosmetic eyelid surgery. Established in 1980, Robert S. Gold, M.D., F.A.A.P., David B. Auerbach, D.O., Louis C. Blumenfeld, M.D. and

optometrist Larry S. Lewis, O.D. of Eye Physicians of Central Florida care for children and adults of all ages, providing routine examinations, glasses, contact lenses, ophthalmic evaluation, treatment and surgery. They also specialize in pediatric ophthalmology, adult eye muscle disorders, cataract and laser surgery, neuro-ophthalmology, and oculoplastic, reconstructive and cosmetic eyelid surgery. The practice has offices in Winter Park, Longwood and MetroWest and accepts most major health insurance plans. For more information about cataract surgery with the AcrySof® ReSTOR® lens or to schedule an appointment, call 407-767-6411.

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