

PRESS RELEASE

FIRST BAY AREA SYMFONY INTRAOCULAR LENS IMPLANTED AT ST. LUKE’S CATARACT & LASER INSTITUTE

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TARPON SPRINGS, FL— By the time Americans reach 40 years of age, they have a one in six chance of getting cataracts. By age 80 that number goes up to more than half of all Americans. A cataract is a clouding of the eye’s natural lens that negatively impacts vision – much like a clouded lens on a pair of glasses or a fogged camera lens.

Part of cataract surgery today is implanting a new, artificial lens into the eye after the cataract is removed. The new lens, an intraocular lens or IOL, is designed to improve both range and quality of vision. There are varying degrees of lenses available, from those that deliver good vision at one distance to others that allow for improved vision at multi-focal points – allowing independence from eye glasses.

Brandon Rodriguez, MD, cornea and cataract surgeon at St. Luke’s Cataract & Laser Institute used a first-of-its-kind IOL lens called the Tecnis Symphony during a cataract surgery procedure today. The Symphony lens gives patients with cataracts extended depth of focus to improve vision at a distance while also improving vision close up. Multi-focal lenses currently enable a full range of vision, but patients have still complained of halos of glare at night. The Symphony lens eliminates most glare and halos.

Another benefit of the Symphony is that it has a single, elongated focus so the patient is provided with continuous vision at all ranges without the drop-offs that can occur with multi-focal lenses with distinct focal points.

Approved in more than 50 countries, the Symphony was recently approved in the United States by the FDA in late July.

“The Symphony is advancement in IOL technology that enables me as a surgeon to provide my patient with an option for better vision across a greater range of distances,” said Dr. Rodriguez.

Rodriguez’s patient, Marie Meyers of Holiday, FL said the decision to get the Symphony lenses was an easy one, “In a few years of buying prescription glasses, I could easily approach the extra cost of these lenses.”

Prior to today’s surgery, Meyers has had regular eye examinations and wears glasses. However even with the glasses, her vision wasn’t what she’d hoped it would be. Some of her daily activities include reading, music and art - so when the opportunity came to have intraocular lenses implanted that would allow her to see clearly without her glasses, she chose the best. “You use your eyes for everything, every day. There’s not many things you can say that about,” said Meyers. “You actually can have a chance to have the eyes you had as a child, so of course you’d take that.”

The Symphony lenses will be used at St. Luke’s in upcoming cataract surgeries by cataract surgeons Pit Gills, MD and Jeffrey Wipfli, MD in the coming weeks.

Visit www.stlukeseye.com for more information on St. Luke’s Cataract & Laser Institute.