



After Five Decades Surgery Provides Gift of Sight

After 50 years, the gift of sight has finally been restored in Joe Young's right eye! When Joe was just 14 years old, one of his friends hit a marble with a baseball bat and the marble struck Joe in the eye. His eye was so badly damaged that Joe had to spend a month recovering in a Boston hospital.

Unfortunately, the marble caused Joe's natural lens to become cloudy so that he could no longer see anything with the injured eye. Therefore, he was not able to participate in contact sports in high school or college. The injury also caused problems with driving, because Joe had no peripheral vision on his right side.

Over the years, Joe visited various doctors to see if anything could be done to restore his vision. He was told, however, that surgery might cause him to lose the eye entirely. Luckily, while he and his wife Mary were out for dinner one night they overheard Dr.

Francis Price, Sr. and his wife Marian talking about their son in Indianapolis, who was an eye surgeon known for handling tough cases. So Joe and Mary flew to Indianapolis and Dr. Price, Jr. agreed to attempt cataract surgery on Joe's eye. His surgery took about 4 times longer than normal cataract surgery because his eye was so damaged.

Now, after 50 years, Joe's vision has been restored in his right eye, which he calls "a miracle!" Mary laughingly complains, "Now I can't sneak up on him, because he sees me coming!"

Dr. Price is the medical monitor for a study evaluating the use of a special ring to make high-risk cataract surgery safer for patients. The Cornea Research Foundation of America is proud to be involved in this and other studies, which help provide the gift of sight to countless people.



Joe and Mary Young

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My Story: In Time of Tragedy New Sight is Given

My name is Edward Jagiela. I am 55 years old and would like to tell you my story. I have always had difficulty with my vision. As a child, I was diagnosed with Keratoconus in both eyes. Keratoconus is a degenerative disorder in which the cornea progressively gets thinner and bulges. As my vision deteriorated, glasses no longer helped so I was then fitted with special rigid contact lenses. These lenses were extremely hard to fit and fell out frequently due to the extreme bulging of my corneas.

In August of 1996, my left eye was removed due to a severe infection. It was a difficult adjustment having only one eye but I was eventually able to return to my job as an inspector at Ford Motor Company.

Then the unthinkable occurred. The keratoconus in my remaining eye advanced to the point where I had developed what is known as acute corneal hydrops. Hydrops is a condition which represents a sudden development of corneal edema

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Test your Eye-Q:

**Sunburning Your Eyes
Is Easier Than You Think**

Sunglasses are probably the most important accessory you can choose to guard your eyes against the sun's ultraviolet rays. On a very bright day, a corneal ultraviolet injury, similar to a sunburn, can happen. Even worse, prolonged or repeated sun exposure can cause clouding of the eye's natural lens (this is called a cataract), and it can degrade the light sensors in the back of the eye leading to a condition known as age related macular degeneration. Selecting the right pair of sunglasses can help protect your eyes from these types of short and long-term damage.

Your eyes are at risk each time they are exposed to ultraviolet light, even in just a single outing. So when choosing your eyewear for the summer, keep the following tips in mind:

- Lenses should offer 90%-100% UVA (ultraviolet A) and UVB (ultraviolet B) protection. A higher price generally means better fashion or durability, not greater protection.
- Glasses need to cover the entire eye area, including eyelids and temples.
- To further block the sun's rays, a wide brimmed hat should be worn. 50% of sunlight comes from overhead and can slip past most sunglasses.
- Lens color does not affect ultraviolet protection, it only affects how you see colors. Gray, green or brown gives the least color distortion.
- Polarizers and antireflective lenses decrease glare and have nothing to do with UV light absorption.
- Never look directly at the sun.
- Contacts with UV coatings are important but should be worn with sunglasses.
- Sunscreen on your face and around your eyes adds another layer of protection.

2004

Foundation Studies

Artificial Iris Implant

Artisans Lens

(for severe myopia)

New Dry Eye Treatment

Capsular Tension Ring

(for difficult cataract surgeries)

Keratoconus Progression

*Preventing Nearsightedness in
Children*

Protective Intraocular Lens

Cornea Donor Tissue Study

Preventing Cornea Graft

Rejection

Cornea Transplant Database



EYECARE TIPS

New Treatments Provide Relief for Eye Allergy Symptoms

Most people who suffer from allergies know that by the end of March pollen season will soon be on its way. According to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, allergies are surprisingly common—over 50 million Americans (1 out of 5 people) are affected by some type of allergy problem. While many people only have nasal symptoms, approximately half also get red, itchy eyes.

Often people choose oral antihistamines to control allergy symptoms. Antihistamines can stop a runny nose and help alleviate itching, but the downside is that they tend to dry the eyes, decreasing tear flow and volume sometimes by over

50%. Unfortunately, studies show that an inadequate tear film can actually make eye allergy symptoms worse.

Eyedrops are a better way to lubricate and improve the comfort of the eye. For example, artificial tears can be purchased without a prescription and they may reduce allergy symptoms by acting as a barrier and by diluting the allergens. Even better are anti-allergy prescription eyedrops, such as Alrex, Alamast, or the forthcoming once a day formulation of Patanol, which actually stop the allergic response.

One trick you can try is to chill the eyedrops. Taken from the fridge, the eyedrops provide the added relief of a

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cooling sensation at no additional cost.

Dr. Price advises allergy sufferers to **NEVER RUB YOUR EYES!** This is hard for most adults, especially at the height of the pollen season, and it is especially difficult for children. Remember, eye rubbing releases chemicals that actually make the allergic reaction worse, plus rubbing can damage the eye.

My Story

from page 1

(swelling) due to a rupture of Descemet's membrane. I was totally blind!!

This occurred 3 weeks before the Christmas of 2000. Can you imagine how it felt not to be able to see the faces of your loved ones? I went immediately to my doctor and was told there was nothing that could be done. In some cases, hydrops may resolve itself, but mine resulted in permanent blindness. At this point my ophthalmologist referred me to Dr. Francis Price who discussed a corneal transplant as my only hope of ever seeing again.

Four months later, on April 12, 2001, I received my corneal transplant. The next day, I was able to see the Big E on Dr. Price's eye chart. I can't begin to tell you how happy I was. There wasn't a dry eye in Dr. Price's office that day.

My progress hasn't been easy. I developed a cataract and again was faced with cloudy vision and was terrified of going blind once more. I am happy to say that Dr. Price successfully removed the cataract in August, 2003.

I now am amazed at how well I see!

Facing blindness was terrifying. I had two daughters who were planning



Ed Jagiela

marriage, and I thought I'd never see them walk down the aisle. Overcoming blindness through my corneal transplant is nothing short of a miracle. My life has been so blessed and transformed since

the transplant. I don't take anyone or anything for granted. I take pleasure from simple things, such as a sunset or the colors in a flower garden.

As a cornea recipient I will forever be grateful for the precious gift of sight. I hope the donor family will find some measure of comfort knowing that their generosity, in time of tragedy, has made such a difference in my life. I encourage everyone to sign his or her driver's license and become an organ donor. More importantly please make your wishes known to your family.

Because of the thoughtfulness and generosity of the donor family and the skill of the surgeon, my hope of not being visually impaired was realized. Yet none of it would have been possible without the research that is being conducted to find ways to overcome blindness. The Cornea Research Foundation of America depends on your charitable gifts for its funding. Your monetary gift may offer hope to thousands of visually impaired persons who are waiting for their miracle of sight.



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“ask THE doctor”

Q. Our 35 yr.old daughter has been told she has Corneal Guttata and that it could turn into Fuchsø Dystrophy. Is this possible? We do not have any evidence of Fuchsø on either side of our families.

A. Fuchsø Dystrophy sometimes occurs spontaneously. There is no reason to worry about this unless she notices any visual decrease or significant glare. There are currently no preventatives or medical treatments for this condition. However, there are new and exciting treatments that are allowing us to give people transplants, which only involve the inner layer of the cornea. This allows the eye to be much stronger, have more rapid visual recovery, and not have many of the problems associated with standard corneal transplants, which used to be the only treatment for Fuchsø Dystrophy once it became symptomatic. Our foundation is actively involved in this research.

Q. I have had viral keratitis for over ten years and surgery for dry eye to plug my tear ducts and yet cracks and pinholes in my cornea continue to reoccur. Are there any supplements available that would help østrengthenö the cornea?

A. We recommend omega 3 fatty acids or flax seed capsules. Patients have found that 1000mg taken twice a day can really help with dry eye. It may take 2-4 weeks for the capsules to start working so be sure to use them for 30 days (these supplements are not recommended for people on blood thinners without your doctorø permission). There is also a new eye drop called Restasis. It is specifically for inflammatory dry eye and requires a prescription. It is used twice a day and helps repair your system so you produce better tears. It will take 30-90 days to see maximum improvement.

