

glasses after surgery." He's referring to the latest lens implants: Rezoom, ReSTOR and Crystallens. Patients who receive these lenses can see both up close and at a distance. "That's something that's been very desirable," says Frantz.

While patients find the option of these implantable lenses exciting, "they have their benefits and drawbacks," counsels the doctor. Glare at night is a potential, if unlikely, drawback. Frantz's practice offers yet another option for patients having cataract surgery: they can choose new-technology lens implants specifically designed to give better, sharper night vision.

Night vision vs. no glasses

This means cataract patients are now faced with a critical decision before their surgery: would they rather go without glasses or see better at night? Frantz quizzes his patients to help them choose the lens that best fits their lifestyle. "What kind of computer needs do they have?" he says, as an example of the type of question he would ask. "We spend a lot of time making sure that we select the best possible lens implant for the best possible outcome for each patient. It's not like it was in years past. It's very customized at this point."

Frantz gives hope to cataract patients with an additional issue. "Up until several years ago," he says, "we did not have great ways of treating astig-

matism." A common condition, astigmatism is a curvature of one or more refractive surfaces of the eye, resulting in blurred vision. "Now we have the toric lens implant," says Frantz, "that we place inside the eye, that allows us to correct the astigmatism before the surgery. We've had great results."

Dr. Richard M. Glasser, M.D. also board-certified, of Southwest Florida Eye Care, also sees a lot of patients who opt for ReSTOR and Rezoom lenses. The combination "works really well, and we do a lot of it," he says.

Life-changing successes

Glasser's associate at the practice, Dr. Rick Palmon, is now using artificial corneas for transplants. For patients who have already had one or two unsuccessful corneal transplants, the artificial cornea can be a miracle. Southwest Florida Eye Care uses the Boston KPro, developed at Harvard University. It's made of an acrylic material. Patients receiving the artificial cornea have all had a previous problem, which was very serious, such as a burn to the eye or a chemical injury.

"They're not very commonly needed," says Glasser of the artificial corneas, "but those are for people who are desperate." The surgery "takes about an hour to an hour and a half," he says, "and most people get enough vision to care for themselves, feed themselves, and dress themselves. Some can even drive," he says. ■



FRANTZ



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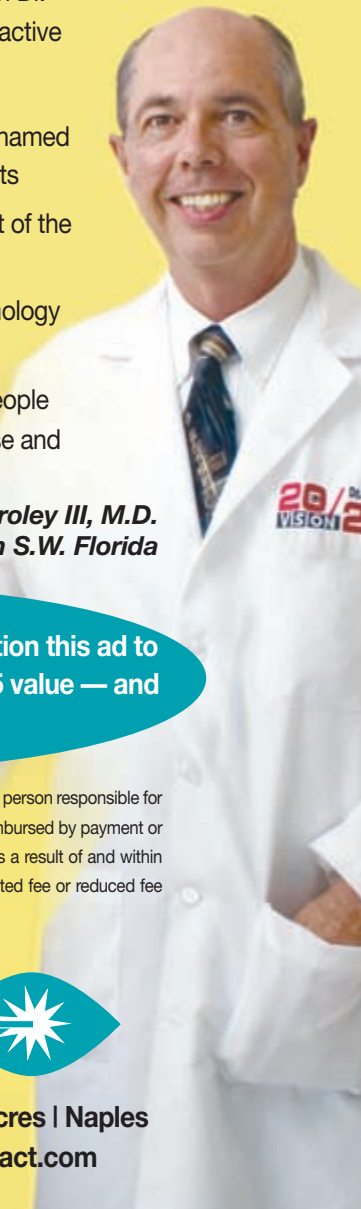
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