

Background

In late May 2008 I had surgery on my right eye. The surgery was performed by Dr. Neel Desai of The Eye Institute of West Florida to correct problems caused by Fuch's Dystrophy and severe cataracts. I would like to discuss my surgical experience and the benefits from having the surgery.

As noted, I had two visual problems that needed to be corrected. Fuch's Dystrophy occurs when pump cells in the rear layer of the cornea no longer can remove excess fluid from the eye. In my case, this resulted in extremely blurred vision, particularly in the morning. Prior to my surgery, I had great difficulty reading, and driving in sunny weather was nearly impossible and unsafe, as I was blinded by the sun. My cataracts compounded the problem since my vision was constantly clouded. Given that, Dr. Desai informed me that I was an excellent candidate for the DSAEK procedure as well as cataract surgery. I totally agreed with him and decided to have the surgery immediately.

Surgery and Recovery

Before surgery, I had measurements taken for the corneal tissue graft and also completed a short health questionnaire. On the day of surgery, I was first given a low dose of anesthetic and a tranquilizer to prevent any pain or anxiety. Yet, I remained semi-conscious and could hear the conversation between Dr. Desai and his assistants. The surgery was painless, and I was released that same day.

Following surgery, I needed to follow specific instructions to ensure my recovery. I was required to lie on my back for 45 minutes of each waking hour for three days. This was necessary to prevent any shift of the air bubble that was holding the corneal graft in place. Fortunately, the time passed quicker than I thought! I had numerous follow-up visits with Dr. Desai and was told I was making an excellent recovery. I also took several types of eye drops on a daily basis to prevent any infection or inflammation in the eye as it healed. Once I was up and about, I had only one restriction. I was advised not to lift more than 25 pounds for a period of four weeks following surgery in order to eliminate any stress on the very small surgical incision on my eye. All in all, my recovery was excellent and I experienced no pain whatsoever in my eye following surgery.

Benefits of the Surgery

My vision improved rapidly following surgery, and it is now better than it has been for decades! What I noticed most is how much my color vision improved. Clear skies are now a brilliant blue, and trees are a bright green and sharply defined to the finest detail. In addition, I can now easily read very small print and license plates, and instantly spot high-flying jets. I am also an amateur astronomer and the amount of detail I can now see through my telescope (stars, planets, galaxies, etc.) is truly awesome. I had become accustomed to seeing so much less for so long, that following my surgery, my newly acquired visual acuity was a revelation. I will be having the same surgical procedures performed on my left eye very soon and am looking forward to even better vision.

I would like to thank Dr. Desai and his staff for restoring my vision and am grateful for today's surgical technology.

If you are a patient considering this same type of surgery and would like to discuss your concerns with a fellow patient, please contact me through Dr. Desai's office.

Sincerely,
D.H., PhD