

in focus

FOCUS EYE CENTRE NEWSLETTER — SUMMER 2004 ■

Seeing is Believing

Wavefront helping patients get even better vision: sometimes exceeds that achieved with glasses or contacts.

The surgical team at Focus Eye Centre, under the medical direction of Dr. David Edmison, is extremely deliberate about all it does — especially when it comes to decisions that will directly affect patient outcomes. The introduction of Wavefront-guided procedures was no exception.

Wavefront affords greater precision for the surgeon and better results for the patient.

Wavefront is a diagnostic technique that produces detailed information which is used when calibrating the laser prior to surgery. “Wavefront goes beyond treating nearsightedness, farsightedness and

astigmatism by detecting all the irregularities that impact on the path of light from the front of the eye (cornea) to the retina at the back and then eliminating them,” says Dr. Edmison.

Known in the United States, where it originated, by its trade name “CustomVue”, Wavefront was introduced to the laser vision correction market in 2002. At that time it was heralded as a major breakthrough, largely because it helped deliver better than 20/20 vision to some patients.

The prospect of so-called “eagle vision” captured the imaginations of patients and press alike, but the surgical team at Focus approached Wavefront with reserved optimism. While FDA results in the U.S. were impressive, Dr. Edmison insisted on having his own data in-hand before recommending it to those patients who qualified for a Wavefront-guided procedure.

After more than a year of research, the surgical team had gathered sufficient data to determine that Wavefront was

indeed a superior treatment option for those whose vision falls within the acceptable parameters. In fact, the results at Focus have been so good that Wavefront is the treatment option of choice for upwards of 80 percent of all patients, and is quickly becoming a standard of care at the centre.

At Focus, the results from traditional laser vision correction are excellent, but for those who qualify for Wavefront, the technology affords greater precision for the surgeon, and can deliver better results for the patient.

“The majority of our patients have recorded better vision than they were able to achieve before their procedure — in many cases 20/15 or even 20/10,” says Dr. Edmison. “In addition, patients also talk of improved ‘quality’ of vision,” he adds.

As initial reports suggested — and Focus data proves — many patients are seeing better than they could with either glasses or contact lenses, thanks to Wavefront.

Ottawa Renegades Receiver Scores with Wavefront

Patient profile



Pat Woodcock

Pat Woodcock starts the 2004 CFL season with a new team and, thanks to the latest in laser vision correction, ‘new’ vision.

As a star wide-receiver with the Ottawa Renegades of the CFL, Pat Woodcock makes his living catching footballs. The 27-year-old’s profession places him among an elite tier of athletes for whom excellent vision is essential, and one of a growing number of pros, including golfers Tiger Woods and Mike Weir, and Canadian hockey Olympian Jayna Hefford, who have undergone laser vision correction (LVC).

Pat’s decision to have LVC started taking shape a few years ago during a routine CFL game and what seemed like a routine play. Having snagged yet another pass, the Ottawa native was being tackled when an opponent’s finger poked into his eye.

“My contact lens was pushed up under my eyelid, and it took a while to get it out,” says Pat, who was promptly replaced in the game “while the trainers held my eyelid up to find the lens, pulled it down, got it washed, and got it comfortable.”

Woodcock — who’s married to his high school sweetheart, Melanie Reid, whom he met at Holy Trinity High School in Kanata — had been mulling over the idea of laser vision correction, and began discussing it more seriously with his wife.

“I’d gotten tired of the hassle of glasses and contacts, but,” says the former NFL pick who

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Renegades Receiver Scores (cont.)

signed with Ottawa during the off-season, "I didn't know much about [the] surgery."

Pat and his wife visited Focus Eye Centre for a consultation, where their questions were answered directly and the options for laser vision correction were delivered as promptly and accurately as a touchdown pass.

"My main concern," recalls the player who won the Grey Cup with the Montreal Alouettes in 2002 and was named Outstanding Canadian in that championship game, "was what if something catastrophic happens and I can't play [after the procedure]?" He learned, of course, that "there's virtually zero percent chance of that happening" and so, with all his fears allayed, decided to have Wavefront PRK scheduled for April 2004.

"[I was] going in with a clear mind, once they explained everything to me. There's a little bit of prep time but, once the doctor goes to work,

the actual procedure is brief. It seemed sort of strange — which is natural reaction when someone's working on your eye — but you're not really feeling anything. There was no pain."

"Everything is clear... most importantly, the ball."

"At the conclusion of the procedure we put in protective contact lenses," says Dr. Edmison, Medical Director at Focus and the surgeon who performed Pat's LVC. "After a few days, they come out and

that's when the real recovery begins," he adds, pointing out that the length and particulars of the post-surgery adjustment period are particular to the individual patient.

Two months after the procedure, Pat is enjoying his freedom from contacts, and clarity of vision.

"My vision is great and everything is clear — most importantly, of course, the ball!" says the newest Ottawa Renegade, who, at press time, was back in the game and had his sights set clearly on another Grey Cup.

Letters *in Focus*

Dr. David Edmison
Medical Director, Focus Eye Centre
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Dear Dr. Edmison:

In 2000 I had laser vision correction on my right eye to allow me to live without glasses. Last week I saw [my doctor] and he informed me that my vision is exactly the same as it was following my operation almost four years ago. All I can say about that is "amazing".

After four years, I am at the stage where I just assume that eye glasses are not a part of my life, and that life without glasses is the norm not the exception. I am thrilled that I made the decision four years ago to have the procedure done.

I'd like to thank you and wish you continued success with your center. Also, please give my best to everyone on staff and pass on my congratulations on their fine customer service.

Sincerely,
James Bulloch, Kingston, Ont.

If you want to share your laser vision correction story with us, we'd love to hear from you. Please write to: *In Focus*, Focus Eye Centre, 1565 Carling Avenue, Suite #110, Ottawa, ON. K1Z 8R1.

Ask the Doctor

Q. Can you tell me about some of the other procedures you perform, such as clear lens extraction?

A. First of all, I should state that laser vision correction works — and works well — for most of our patients, especially with the advent of Wavefront. Myopia (near-sightedness) or hyperopia (far-sightedness), with or without astigmatism, can usually be corrected with refractive surgery. In fact, upwards of 95 percent of patients at Focus are treated with some form of laser vision correction.

However, for those patients who are not candidates for either standard or Wavefront-guided laser vision correction, removing the lens and replacing it with an implant designed to correct vision problems is one treatment option. Whenever the lens of the eye is removed, the surgeon has the opportunity to replace it with an artificial lens that corrects for any myopia or hyperopia.

Clear lens extraction, or CLE, is an increasingly common procedure for patients with extreme nearsightedness, farsightedness and some with presbyopia (a condition that occurs naturally as part of the ageing process). Approximately five percent of the procedures we do at Focus involve CLE. It is similar to a cataract extraction, except that it is performed for the refractive benefits it affords the patient. In terms of patient outcomes, the quality of vision with CLE is, for the higher hyperopic or myopic refractions, superior to laser vision correction.

For those who qualify and have reasonable expectations in terms of their surgical results, clear lens extraction may be an option to laser vision correction.



Dr. David Edmison,
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