

# Eye Surgery Goes Higher Tech at The Braverman Eye Center

**HALLANDALE** – There's more to 20/20 vision than meets the eye. The FDA has approved ground-breaking wavefront technology that allows eye surgeons, for the first time, to address visual problems that were undetectable before. This wavefront technology is customizing laser eye surgery, personalizing it for each patient and making an already good surgery, LASIK, even better.

As one of the first surgeons in South Florida to start performing refractive surgery, Dr. Stanley Braverman has many years of experience with refractive surgery. Although Dr. Braverman is certified to use five different laser platforms, he believes LADARVision with Custom Cornea provides the best results.

This is good news for South Floridians, since the Braverman Eye Center in Hallandale Beach now has the only excimer laser with CustomCornea with wavefront technology within a 360 square mile area stretching from downtown Ft. Lauderdale to downtown Miami and west to Plantation.

Dr. Braverman has been doing wavefront LASIK surgery using CustomCornea with the LADARVision excimer laser system for two years, ever since it was approved by the FDA. His patients are extremely satisfied, and they are seeing better.

"Many more of my patients are seeing 20/20 following a CustomCornea procedure," Dr. Braverman said. "Studies show that approximately 70% of patients treated with CustomCornea with wavefront technology see better *without* glasses after the procedure than they ever saw *with* glasses or contacts before the surgery was done. Wavefront technology is delivering on its promise. Not only are my patients' visual results better, but patients report markedly reduced post-LASIK side effects, with glare, halos, or night vision problems being seen in fewer than 1% of patients."

Astronomers have been using wavefront technology for more than a decade to detect and remove the atmospheric distortion that blurs images seen through its powerful lenses. A new wavefront device, LADARWave, creates a three-dimensional map of a patient's unique visual errors, and that map then guides the LADARVision laser during the surgery, adjusting the laser for each individual.

The LADARVision device incorporates radar tracking technology developed by NASA to track satellites to lock onto the eye during surgery, allowing the wavefront map to be precisely aligned and maintained throughout the procedure, ensuring accurate placement of the laser beam to reshape the cornea. This tracking technology, used exclusively by the LADARVision Excimer laser refractive system, is so unique that it has been inducted into the Science Hall of Fame, the only tracking system to have achieved this honor.

"It tracks your eye 4,000 times per second, detecting any eye movement," Dr. Braverman said.

"Consequently, the tracked eye appears to have no movement during the actual procedure."

Prior to FDA approval of wavefront technology, eye surgeons could only measure a person's prescription, such as 20/40. Wavefront allows eye surgeons to go beyond standard prescriptions and conventional LASIK, measuring and treating imperfections in the eye's optical system called "higher-order aberrations." Previously, only lower order aberrations -- such as nearsightedness, farsightedness, or astigmatism -- could be measured. However, wavefront technology can measure higher order aberrations, which have been linked to post-LASIK visual disturbances, such as the glare and halos that can cause night vision problems.

"With CustomCornea, we can treat each patient's unique corneal pattern," Dr. Braverman said. "It's like a fingerprint. Each patient has a unique corneal geography that can be treated in a completely customized fashion, unique to each individual. We can weed out those patients prone to side effects with our pre-operative testing and counsel them before the surgery if they are likely to have side effects after the surgery. CustomCornea is a tremendous breakthrough in laser eye surgery that raises the bar in this field."

Dr. Braverman said CustomCornea has really proven its worth, "I've never seen results like this in the 10 years I've been performing refractive laser eye surgeries. The majority of our patients are thrilled with their outcomes. It's often life-changing for them."

Yet, many potential candidates for wavefront-assisted LASIK surgery are still unaware of the benefits this technology provides. According to a recent Gallup poll, the majority of respondents who have considered LASIK said it is somewhat or very important to alleviate their dependence on eyeglasses or contact lenses. However, 73% admitted that they know nothing at all about new advances in the field, and more than 56% actually said they know little or nothing at all about LASIK in general. More than half of the people polled who have considered LASIK said they had never spoken with a doctor about the procedure.

"These survey results are important because they show that people are not taking the right steps to stay informed or to make informed decisions about laser eye surgery," Dr. Braverman said. "LASIK is a virtually painless procedure, but fears about side



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effects, such as glare, halos, and night vision problems, were a significant concern in the past. Today the potential for these unwanted side effects is significantly reduced because of new wavefront-guided LASIK, which makes visual outcomes more predictable."

Using a wavefront-guided laser costs a little more than conventional LASIK, but there are some unique ways to pay for laser eye surgery today, including some help from the IRS. Recent changes in tax laws allow patients to utilize their medical flex spending dollars to pay for the procedure, which can save them as much as 40%, depending on their tax bracket. A flex spending account (FSA) is an employer-sponsored benefit that allows employees to pay for eligible medical expenses on a pre-tax basis. If an employer does not offer an FSA, LASIK now also qualifies as a tax deductible medical expense.

## **THE BRAVERMAN EYE CENTER**

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**FOR AN APPOINTMENT, CONTACT ROSEMARY AT 954-458-2112 OR AT OUR REFRACTIVE SURGERY HOTLINE: 800-92-EYES-1 (800-923-9371)**

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