PresbyLasik: Correction for two kinds of vision problems
New procedure can correct both Distance and Near Vision

For years, the miracle of Lasik surgery for vision correction was almost always an either-or procedure. Patients who wanted to throw away their glasses or contact lenses but were old enough to require reading glasses on top of their distance correction, had to choose one kind of correction or the other for each eye. Now, a remarkable new procedure called PresbyLasik allows some patients to eliminate both problems.

Jose Berrios, 64, and his wife, Alma Mazar-Berrios, 62, both qualified for the PresbyLasik procedure and are thrilled with the results.

Jose, a Miami-Dade transit driver, began to require reading glasses years ago. Ten years ago, he started to have trouble seeing at a distance as well, and needed either bifocals or two different pairs of glasses. "I was going for a vision test every two years, and the prescription would always change," he recalls. "I was really tired of it."

One day, a co-worker told Jose about his daughter, who had had successful Lasik surgery by Dr. Stanley Braverman. Intrigued, he decided to pay a visit to Dr. Braverman at the Braverman Eye Center in Hallandale Beach. "I hoped I'd be able to quit wearing my glasses," he says.

As a bus driver, Jose needs to be able to see clearly, because the safety of his passengers can depend on it. When he's not driving, he enjoys going to the firing range, a hobby that also requires keen distance vision. And when he relaxes at the couple's home in Hialeah, he likes to surf the Internet, for which he needs clear close vision. He didn't really expect to be able to have both problems corrected, but he was happily surprised.

"Dr. Braverman gave me a complete eye exam," Jose recalls. "Then he told me about the (Presby)Lasik procedure and said I'd be a good candidate."

Jose had the painstaking procedure and today, he can see clearly both for distance and for reading. "It's nice not to have to wear glasses anymore," he says. "I enjoy being able to see again."

Jose was so pleased with his results that Alma decided to see if she might qualify for PresbyLasik. A month after her husband had the procedure, she, too, visited the Braverman Eye Center. She was doubtful about her candidacy; however, for a couple of reasons.

Her prescription was stronger and more complex than Jose's. "I wore trifocals," she says. "I work a lot at the computer and I was having problems. I couldn't see TV without glasses--everything was a blur -- and I couldn't see signs when I was driving."

The other reason Alma wondered whether the procedure could be successful for her: "I'd been told I wasn't a candidate for Lasik," she says. "I didn't think I'd ever be able to go without glasses."

But Jose kept urging her to try again. And at a visit to the Braverman Eye Center, Alma discovered that technology had changed since she last inquired about corrective vision surgery. During the consultation, she learned that she was indeed a candidate for PresbyLasik.

Alma decided to go ahead. "My husband was so happy with his outcome that he convinced me to have the procedure," she says.

Just as it was for Jose, PresbyLasik was successful for Alma. Now, whether they are at work, out for a drive, watching a movie or walking their dogs, two German shepherds and an Australian sheepdog, they do it without the inconvenience of glasses or contacts. "I'm very happy not to have to wear glasses," Alma says. "It took me awhile to figure out I didn't need them anymore. I kept putting my finger on my nose to push them up. I feel very grateful. Both of us have recommended Dr. Braverman to friends."

Dr. Braverman started doing the PresbyLasik procedure around one year ago. It was in the United States approximately six years ago, having originally been done using the Allegretto Wavelight femtosecond laser by an Italian eye surgeon, Dr. Roberto Pinelli. This is the same Laser that Dr. Braverman uses. Dr. Braverman said "this technique was developed by taking what Eye Surgeons already knew about how Lasik changes the shape of the front of the eye to eliminate glasses, and just modifying the techniques to be able to reduce or possibly eliminate the need for distance glasses, as well as reading glasses."

What To Expect With Z-Lasik Surgery
All Laser Lasik surgery is performed on a patient's cornea, which provides most of the focusing power when light enters the eye. Topical anesthetic drops are applied to the eye. The surgeon first uses a special Ziemer LDV femtosecond laser to create a thin layer of corneal tissue that can be folded back (a corneal flap). Then, another type of laser (an Allegretto Wavelight Eye-Q excimer laser) is used to reshape the underlying cornea, painlessly. After the excimer laser treatment, the corneal flap is reposisioned and bonds back into place naturally. The corneal reshaping improves the focusing power of the cornea.

Although no one can promise patients "perfect" vision, most Laser Vision Correction patients with mild to moderate prescriptions with or without astigmatism, do achieve 20/20 or better vision.

This means that they no longer need glasses or contacts to drive, play most sports, and watch TV. Also, you can participate in careers requiring good unaided vision, such as policemen or firemen need.

ABOUT DR. STANLEY BRAVERMAN
Dr. Stanley Braverman is a Voluntary Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Miami School of Medicine and the Anne Bates Leach Eye Hospital/Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. He is also an Adjunct Associate Clinical Professor at the Nova Southeastern School of Optometry. In addition to treating patients, Dr. Braverman, a board-certified refractive surgeon, has been a medical researcher, and is the inventor of several eye surgical instruments, and author of many articles for medical journals. He has lectured at professional meetings in the United States and internationally. He has recently been recognized by Newsweek Magazine as one of the Fifteen Leaders in Laser Eye Surgery in 2011 and recently co-authored a book on Z-Lasik that is being distributed internationally.

For additional information or an initial consultation, please contact Rosemary Hartford, Refractive Surgery Coordinator at (888) 954-LASIK or by calling the Braverman Eye Center at (954) 458-2112 or (305) 374-8694. Please also visit the Braverman Eye Center website at www.bravermaneyecenter.com where you can watch a video of Bladeless All Laser Z-Lasik and learn more about refractive surgery choices, as well as the latest advances in LASIK, cataract surgery and upgraded lens implants. In addition to Dr. Stanley Braverman, a Refractive Cataract and LASIK Laser Vision Correction surgeon, your other sub-specialty eye care needs can also be evaluated and treated. On staff at the Braverman Eye Center are Rashid Taher MD FACS and Tisro Lara MD FACS, Vitreo-Retinal surgeons; David Tenzel MD FACS, Ophthalmic Plastic, Reconstructive and Cosmetic Surgeon; Aarup Kubal MD FACS, Complex Glaucoma Specialist; Jesse Pelletier MD, FACS, Corneal Surgeon; and, Eric Ciliberti MD, Neuro-Ophthalmologist; Ryan Y. Hargreaves OD and Valerie Croteau OD. All sub-specialty surgeons at the Braverman Eye Center are Board Certified Ophthalmologists.

The Braverman Eye Center is located at 1935 East Hallandale Beach Boulevard, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009. www.bravermaneyecenter.com

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