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# SEEING IS BELIEVING

## When Thomas Angelucci faced cataract surgery, Dr. Stanley Braverman was his only choice

Hollywood resident Thomas Angelucci had worn contact lenses for most of his life. But when his vision began to deteriorate rapidly, he became alarmed. "I was having a terrible time wearing my contacts, and it seemed as if my prescription was changing every month," he recalls. "And I needed to wear reading glasses over my contacts."

As his vision loss quickly progressed, activities that had been routine became difficult or impossible. "I like to walk my dog at night," he says. "But my vision had become so poor I had trouble seeing when people were coming toward me. And I could barely see well enough to drive at night."

Mr. Angelucci paid a visit to his primary physician, who sent him to an eye specialist. "He told me I had cataracts, but they weren't that bad and I should wait to do anything about them. But I knew they were bad, and they should be taken care of."

Then Mr. Angelucci's neighbor told him about Dr. Stanley Braverman of the Braverman Eye Center in Hallandale Beach. "He'd had cataract surgery and said his experience with Dr. Braverman was very good," Mr. Angelucci says. "So I went on the computer and did some research, and I liked what I saw."

But when Mr. Angelucci went back to his primary care physician and asked for a referral to Dr. Braverman, the doctor at first said no. "He didn't want to refer me there because Dr. Braverman wasn't part of his network," Mr. Angelucci said. "But I insisted."

Mr. Angelucci is very glad he did. Today, he can see clearly without contacts or glasses. "Dr. Braverman told me I definitely needed to do something about my cataracts," Mr. Angelucci says. "At first I was a little nervous, because it was my eyes that were being treated. But they gave me something to help me relax, and I was fine. I was awake the whole time, and the procedure was very short and totally painless."

Dr. Braverman treated Mr. Angelucci's left eye first. "Within several hours, I could see really well," Mr. Angelucci recalls. "And by the next day, I was seeing 20/20 out of my left eye without glasses or contact lenses."

While waiting to have his right eye treated, Mr. Angelucci continued to wear his right contact lens. "When I took it out before going for the surgery, I thought to myself, 'this is the last time I'll ever have to do this.'"

The right eye was equally successful, and Mr. Angelucci was able to throw away his contacts. "It's like a miracle," he says. "I can see so well now. Sometimes at night when I'm ready to go to bed, I think I still have to take out my contacts, and then I remember that I don't ever have to do that again. It's like a miracle."

Dr. Braverman said the first time I saw Thomas, he said that "he wanted to get his eyes fixed more than anything in the world." Mr. Angelucci had lost one-third of his vision in each eye because of his cataracts, and he was very nearsighted. After the surgery in both eyes, he is seeing 20/20 without glasses! He had special premium lenses implanted at the time of the cataract surgery that allows him to see better at night; more like a twenty five year old than a sixty year old. No wonder he is so happy. Now he can drive and walk his dog at night without glasses!

### WHAT ARE CATARACTS

A cataract is formed when the natural lens of the eye, responsible for focusing light and producing sharp images, becomes cloudy and hardens, resulting in a loss of visual function. The lens of the eye is clear at birth but is one of the first parts of the body to show the effects of aging. A cataract is painless and usually develops gradually over several months or years. The onset of a cataract in one or both eyes may cause decreased night vision, impaired depth perception, and increased color distortion.

Cataracts are the leading cause of vision loss among adults age 55 and older. In fact, poor vision from cataracts affects 60 percent of all adults over age 60. However, cataracts also can result from injury, heredity, or medications, so they can affect people of all ages.

Understanding that no two conditions or patients are the same, Dr. Braverman analyzes the patient's symptoms, performs a comprehensive eye exam, and may test for glare disability and contrast sensitivity before making a diagnosis. The final decision to proceed with the surgery belongs to the patient.

Your optometrist or Dr. Braverman may prescribe glasses, medication or surgery depending on your symptoms, complaints and age. Usually surgery will not be recommended until glasses no longer work to make you visually



**Hollywood resident Thomas Angelucci, left, with Dr. Stanley Braverman, "I can see so well now, it's like a miracle!"**

happy. In the case of lensectomy surgery, the patient cosmetically wants to get rid of their glasses.

### CATARACT SURGERY: What to expect

Cataract surgery is the removal of your cloudy natural lens, which is usually dissolved using high frequency ultrasound through a small (less than 3 millimeter) opening. An artificial lens is then placed inside the eye where the cloudy lens used to be. Cataract surgery continues to improve. Recent developments include no-stitch surgery, topical anesthesia, - surgical correction of astigmatism, and new upgraded premium lens designs. Eye drops are given to the patient to aid in the healing of the eye, which takes a few months, but the patient is able to return to normal activity almost immediately after surgery and usually sees well within just days.

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**Thomas Angelucci Patient**

If the eye is otherwise healthy, cataract surgery is successful in more than 98% of patients and they enjoy improved vision after the procedure.

### 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 ophthalmologist, 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 about upgraded lens implants, advanced cataract surgery and LASIK, both nationally 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. An initial cataract consultation can be scheduled by calling the Braverman Eye Center at: **(954) 458-2112 or (305) 374-8694.**

For additional information please contact Regina Vasquez, Surgery Coordinator, or visit the Braverman Eye Center website at **www.bravermaneyecenter.com** where you can watch a video of cataract surgery and learn more about all of the latest advances in 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 Tirso 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. All sub-specialist 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.**