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## Don't Give Up Your Vision – or Your Hope

By Lynne Peterson  
Robert Nee left Pittsburgh, Penn., in his twenties and went into the bustling freight industry. The image of the last American cowboy driving a big rig fired his imagination. He moved boxes of freight from trucks, worked on the loading dock and shared the comradeship of fellow longshoreman. This was the life about which he always dreamed; it was steady work, and the pay was good. After work, while fellow dockworkers and truck drivers were stopped for a beer at a local bar, Robert managed to hit the books, studying hard, and eventually earning a college degree in elementary education.

By age 50, Robert faced a new challenge. Distracted with increasingly bad vision, he went to his optometrist, Dr. Eric Stepp, in Hollywood, Fla., who fitted him with a pair of glasses. However, Dr. Stepp explained that Robert's vision would still not be very good because he had cataracts.

Indeed, the new glasses did not alleviate Robert's vision problem. His vision worsened rapidly. Furthermore, he was recently laid off from his job as a produce broker and knew he would soon have no health insurance. He felt as if only a forklift could lift the heavy emotional load he was carrying. Robert said, "I enjoyed getting rid of life's tensions, cruising on my Harley-Davidson motorcycle around town. It was like a living hell having the cataracts and not being able to do that because I was nearly blind."

Robert's life took a positive turn when he went back to Dr. Stepp, who then referred him to Dr. Stanley Braverman at the Braverman Eye Center in Hallandale Beach for cataract surgery.

Dr. Braverman told Robert his vision was 20/300 in the left eye and 20/200 in the right eye. He was legally blind in both eyes! After a thorough evaluation, Dr. Braverman explained cataract surgery to Robert, who then took some time to weigh

everything involved. He wanted to make a careful, logical decision.

Robert decided to let Dr. Braverman remove his cataracts. "The surgery went well and took approximately 20 minutes for my one eye," Robert said. "After the procedure, I was extremely happy because it was like looking at high definition television. It was incredible!"

However, Robert was very frustrated. He still needed to have the cataract in his second eye removed, but he had been laid off from his job, and his health insurance was set to expire within a week. During his post-operative exam done the day after the surgery on his first eye, he explained his situation to Dr. Braverman. Later that day, he received a call from Dr. Braverman's office. He was told, "Don't worry. Dr. Braverman understands your situation." He was told that if he could come down to the HCA Surgical Center in North Miami Beach later that same day, the cataract surgery on his second eye could be performed that day -- and the total out-of-pocket surgical costs would be paid by Dr. Braverman.

Robert said, "I was overwhelmed with emotion. I never imagined the doctor would pay for my cataract eye surgery right out of his own pocket. I even saved a Xerox copy of the doctor's check with his signature. Dr. Braverman was there when I needed him." 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. Normally, the onset of a cataract in one or both eyes may cause decreased night vision, impaired depth perception, and increased color distortion.

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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 affect all ages as they also can result from injury, heredity, or medications.

Understanding that no two conditions or patients are the same, Dr. Braverman analyzes patient 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 remains with the patient.

Your optometrist or Dr. Braverman may prescribe glasses, medication or surgery depending on the symptoms, complaints and age of the patient. Usually no surgery is recommended until glasses no longer work to make you visually happy.

### Cataract Surgery – What to Expect

Cataract Surgery is the removal of your cloudy natural lens. Your cloudy natural lens is usually dissolved using high frequency ultrasound through a very small opening -- less than 3 millimeters. An artificial lens is then implanted. The surgery continues to improve, with such recent developments as no-stitch surgery, topical anesthesia, surgical correction of astigmatism and new upgraded lens designs. It takes a few months for the



The Braverman Eye Center – with multiple Board Certified Sub-Specialist Ophthalmologists – is located at 1935 East Hallandale Beach Boulevard, Hallandale Beach. For information or to make an appointment call: (954) 458-2112, (305) 374-8694, or 1-888-954-LASIK, or visit our website at [www.bravermaneyecenter.com](http://www.bravermaneyecenter.com) where you can watch a video of cataract surgery and learn more about all the latest advances in cataract surgery and upgraded lens implants.

eye to heal completely, but the patient is able to return to normal activity almost immediately after surgery and usually sees well within days.

Cataract surgery, if the eye is otherwise healthy, is successful in more than 98 % of patients, and improved vision is often enjoyed immediately after the procedure.

### About Dr. Stanley Braverman

Dr. Stanley Braverman is a Voluntary Assistant Clinical Professor at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute and an Adjunct Associate Clinical Professor at Nova Southeastern School of Optometry. An initial cataract consultation can

be scheduled by calling the Braverman Eye Center at 954-458-2112. Ask for an appointment for a cataract consultation. The Braverman Eye Center – with multiple Board Certified Sub-Specialist Ophthalmologists – is located at 1935 East Hallandale Beach Boulevard, Hallandale Beach. For information or to make an appointment call: (954) 458-2112,(305) 374-8694, or 1-888-954-LASIK, or visit our website at [www.bravermaneyecenter.com](http://www.bravermaneyecenter.com) where you can watch a video of cataract surgery and learn more about all the latest advances in cataract surgery and upgraded lens implants.