

Pinellas Health Care News

a publication of Florida Health Care News, Inc.



OPHTHALMOLOGY

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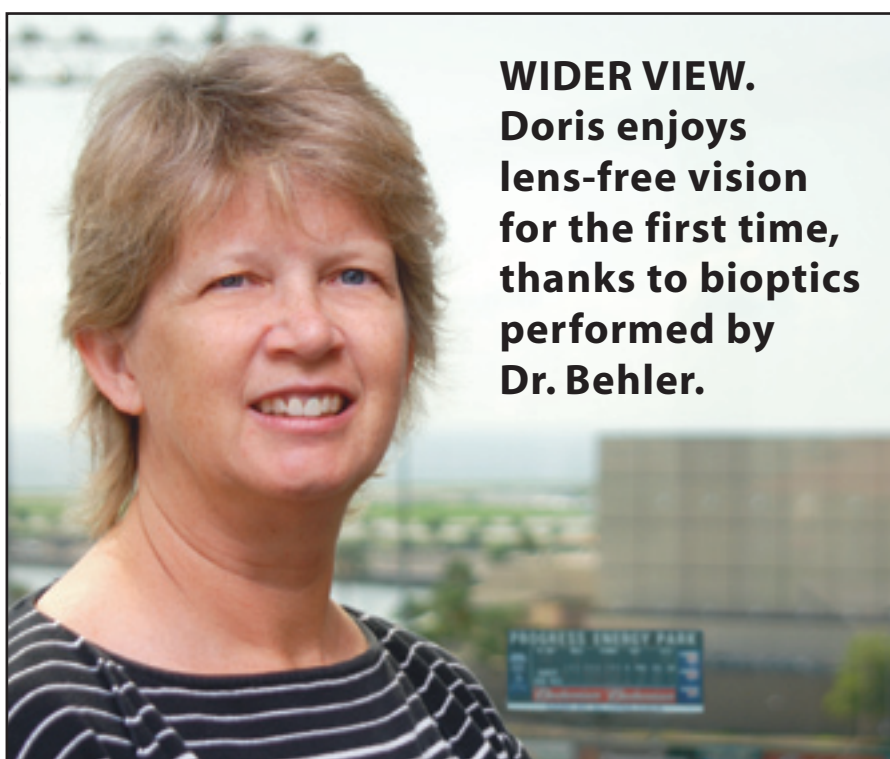
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Bioptics for Personalized Vision Results

PHOTO BY NERISSA JOHNSON



WIDER VIEW. Doris enjoys lens-free vision for the first time, thanks to bioptics performed by Dr. Behler.

“My vision was so poor when I was a youngster that I used to bump into things after I learned to walk,” shares Doris Loving. “I started wearing eyeglasses when I was just 14 months old.”

Doris’ problem was multifaceted: She suffered from extreme nearsightedness and had astigmatism, and her right eye tended to be lazy, despite her corrective lenses.

When permanent vision correction with radial keratectomy became

Permanent vision correction options abound, and bioptics, which combines advanced refractive and implant options to achieve the best possible results, brings excellent vision within reach of more patients than ever.



available, Doris talked to her eye doctor about it. “He told me it wasn’t an option for me,” recalls Doris, “so I waited for something better. When I learned about LASIK and its use for treating higher degrees of nearsightedness about six years ago, I consulted an eye surgeon about that. He told

me he wouldn’t recommend it. He told me to wait for other advances that were then in development.”

Doris waited until January 2007, when the effects of presbyopia forced her to consider trifocal eyeglasses. “I have a small face and a very strong prescription. I already knew, from wearing bifocals, that my corrective lenses wouldn’t comfortably accommodate a

(see **Bioptics**, page 4)

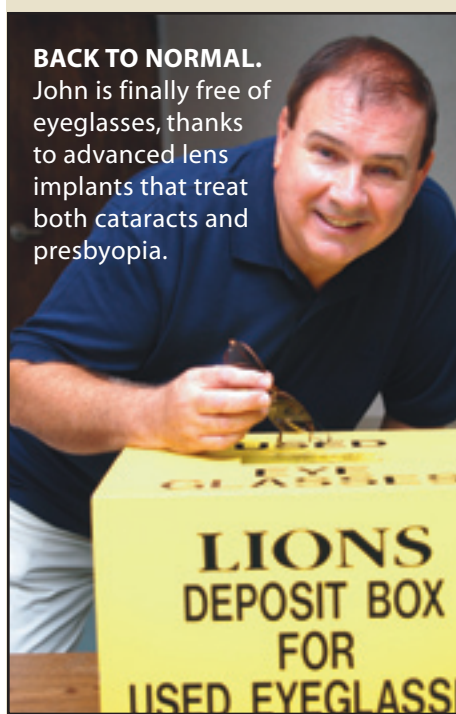
Two lenses, one great result

“I was forty-six years old before I had to wear eyeglasses, and I hated them,” states John Prokop. “They were reading glasses, and I kept taking them off and losing them. I finally just kept multiple pairs around in my glove compartment, at work and at home. And as if the inconvenience wasn’t bad enough, I thought my reading glasses made me look older, too.”

By the time John was 56, he needed corrective lenses for driving, and eyeglasses became a constant source of aggravation for him. “They were uncomfortable to wear, they’d fly off my face — they were just a necessary evil,” says John.

As time went by, John’s vision experienced other changes. “It got harder to drive at night,” he remembers. “My wife would say, *Guess what? We’re out of milk*, and if it was dark out, I’d answer,

(see **Two lenses, one great result**, page 4)



BACK TO NORMAL. John is finally free of eyeglasses, thanks to advanced lens implants that treat both cataracts and presbyopia.

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Goodbye to sciatica

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Stronger bite function

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New enduring

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Bioptics

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progressive prescription. I really didn't want to use trifocals, so before I spent money on something I didn't want, I decided to visit an eye surgeon who was strongly recommended by a friend of mine."

That surgeon was board-certified ophthalmologist Scott C. Behler, MD, of Behler Eye & Laser Center.

Right connection

"Doris received good advice when she was told to delay permanent vision correction years ago," supports Dr. Behler. "In the last few years we have expanded the options for patients like Doris, and I was happy to offer her the chance not only to reduce her eyeglass prescription but also to significantly reduce her reliance on eyeglasses in most settings."

For Doris, Dr. Behler recommended bioptics, placing Visian implantable collagen lenses (ICL), which are designed for patients with higher degrees of nearsightedness, and reducing her astigmatism with LASIK corneal reshaping.

"I can't tell you how much this has changed my life," says Doris. "My vision never approached 20/20 acuity before in my whole life, and my left eye recently tested at 20/20. My right eye is still lazy," she points out, "but where I used to read only the second line of the eye chart with correction using that eye, I can now read the fourth or fifth line without any correction."

Doris says she appreciates the small changes her improved vision has made in her life.

"I can look out of my office window on the seventh floor of the City Center building in St. Petersburg and read the billboards



Scott C. Behler, MD, is board certified in ophthalmology by the American Board of Ophthalmology and is further board certified in LASIK eye surgery by the American Board of Eye Surgery and the Council on Refractive Surgery Quality Assurance. He has been in private practice since 1991. A clinical associate professor of ophthalmology at the University of South Florida, fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and American College of Eye Surgeons, and a member of the International Society of Refractive Surgery and the American Society of Refractive and Cataract Surgery, this highly qualified surgeon specializes in refractive and cataract surgery. Dr. Behler received his master's degree with honors from the University of Michigan and his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He completed his residency in ophthalmology at the Eye and Ear Institute and Hospital at the University of Pittsburgh with advanced training in laser eye surgery, cataract surgery, and implant surgery. He has been performing a variety of refractive surgery procedures — including LASIK, refractive lens exchange, phakic IOLs, radial keratotomy, astigmatic keratotomy, photorefractive keratotomy, and automated lamellar keratoplasty — for over 15 years. Dr. Behler is also a surgical instrument inventor. He is a concert pianist and conductor who performs annually throughout the United States and was director of the American Academy of Ophthalmology Concert Series. In the past, he has participated in the International Van Cliburn Competition.



AMERICAN BOARD OF EYE SURGERY

at Progress Energy Park," she points out. "I don't have eyeglasses sliding down my nose. I can wear nonprescription sunglasses. And I can spend a day at the beach and go into the water and be able to see. These are things so many people take for granted, but they're all new to me.

"What Dr. Behler accomplished for me is just phenomenal."

FHCN—Billie S. Noakes

Two lenses, one great result

(continued from page 1)

Guess what? We're waiting till morning.

"I had heard about this kind of thing among older people," John emphasizes. "I didn't like it."

John went to his eye doctor and learned that his latest vision problems weren't due to presbyopia, the age-related loss of the eye's ability to shift focus, but to cataracts, the natural clouding of the eye's natural lens that occurs as part of the aging process. A new eyeglass prescription wouldn't help; John needed surgery.

"I didn't know any eye surgeons," John points out, "so I started asking my friends and family if they knew a surgeon they'd recommend. I heard a lot of stories about unsuccessful cataract surgeries and their complications," says John, "but finally one of our friends told us that her eye surgeon, Dr. Behler, had done an excellent job and had treated her very well. Suddenly, it was Dr. Behler, Dr. Behler, Dr. Behler, so I decided I should meet him myself.

"He was fantastic," John proclaims. "He was knowledgeable, professional and willing to explain my options to me until I was confident that I understood them all.

"I knew cataract surgery would clear my vision, but when Dr. Behler talked about reducing my need for eyeglasses, I was like a dog waiting for a treat. I was eager for surgery."

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2346 Drew St.
Clearwater
(727) 712-2500
OR TOLL FREE AT
(800) BEHLEREYE
(234-5373)

"John was an ideal candidate for two high-tech lenses that treat both cataracts and presbyopia: the ReSTOR apodized diffractive lens that selectively directs light onto the retina in a unique way to provide the patient with sharp, clear vision at a range of distances; and the *crystalens* accommodating lens, which shifts focus between near and distant vision," says Dr. Behler. "I explained the benefits and limitations of each lens so John could make an informed decision about the lens that

was best for him."

John selected the ReSTOR lens and scheduled his surgery on his right eye first.

"My result was unbelievable," says John. "Immediately after surgery, I could see clearly at all distances without any eyeglasses at all. I was able to read the paper, drive, and watch TV, and it was all so crystal clear and vivid."

John did notice some glare from the streetlights when he drove at night, but he remembered that Dr. Behler had talked about this side effect and how it would improve with time. By the time John was ready to schedule surgery on his left eye, the glare had become less noticeable. "I could live with it," says John, "and the benefits of not having to wear eyeglasses far outweighed a little glare problem. I had a

little difficulty looking at my computer screen, too, but I didn't need glasses."

John was willing to live with those two inconveniences, but Dr. Behler was not.

"He started looking into this, because Dr. Behler is dedicated to keeping up on research," John says. "He discovered that patients with glare problems have had good results using a ReSTOR implant in one eye, and a *crystalens* in the other. That's what we decided to do, and to my absolute amazement, the *crystalens* took care of the glare problem.

"I have excellent distance, mid-range, and reading vision, and, thanks to Dr. Behler, I was able to clear my glove compartment, my desk, and my home of my unwanted eyeglasses. I donated them to the Lions Club.

"It felt great."

Visit Dr. Behler's informative website to begin learning about his philosophy of care and depth of experience.

www.behlereye.com

YES! I would like to receive additional information about permanent vision correction:

- Please send me your patient information packet.
 Please call me during the day to answer my questions.
 Please call me during the evening to answer my questions.
 Please call me to schedule an appointment.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Mail to: Behler Eye & Laser Center, 2346 Drew St., Clearwater, FL 33765

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