



Pinellas Health Care News

a publication of Florida Health Care News, Inc.



OPHTHALMOLOGY

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CustomVue LASIK, crystalens: the best vision is in the details



Tim appreciates Dr. Behler's skill in performing CustomVue LASIK to provide him with a lens-free lifestyle, especially since it expands his peripheral vision.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM AVERETT

Commercial and recreational pilot Tim Averett was interested in LASIK laser vision correction to correct his nearsightedness, but it wasn't until he scratched his eye in 2005 that he decided to do something about it.

"I used hard, gas-permeable contacts to reshape my corneas at night so I could fly without eyeglasses or contacts during the day," explains Tim, "but I'd learned that I wouldn't be a good candidate for LASIK until my eyes returned to their natural shape. When I injured my eye and couldn't wear my contacts anyway, it seemed like a good time to return to wearing eyeglasses and get my eyes ready for surgery."

There were accommodations to be made with that choice. Tim's vision with eyeglasses wasn't as sharp as he liked, and Tim found that he often experienced glare while flying commercial jetliners. He also had difficulties when flying recreationally.

"I fly an open cockpit biplane for pleasure," relates Tim, "and my glasses would sometimes fly off my face."

While Tim dealt with those aggravations, he used the Internet to find the most qualified eye surgeon to perform it. "Excellent vision is important for everyone," Tim acknowledges, "but in my career, the toler-



ance for error is very small. I needed to find an eye surgeon I could trust to deliver the most favorable outcome."

Tim's search led him to Scott C. Behler, MD, of Behler Eye & Laser Center. Dr. Behler is a board-certified ophthalmologist with extensive experience in all facets of refractive and cataract surgery.

"Dr. Behler's qualifications are excellent," says Tim, "and he has a good report on HealthGrades.com. He also

uses the highest-quality laser to perform eye surgeries."

There was more.

"During my initial consultation, Dr. Behler took all the time I needed to answer my questions to my satisfaction," Tim recalls. "I was impressed by his technical knowledge, his experience, and his passion. Passion is important in any career; it sets the best apart from the very good. Dr. Behler is a concert pianist, too, and knowing he has that level of skill and artistry gave me an extra measure of comfort."

CustomVue LASIK

After examining Tim's eyes and learning about his work and leisure activities, Dr.

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Persistence solves long-term pain



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New hope for patients with swallowing disorders



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New trend in facial rejuvenation

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Best vision

(continued from page 1)

Behler recommended CustomVue LASIK to permanently correct Tim's vision.

"CustomVue LASIK gives me the ability to identify the unique characteristics — the fingerprint, in a sense — of an individual patient's eye to guide the laser during surgery, literally custom tailoring vision correction for each patient," says Dr. Behler. "No two treatment plans are exactly the same, so each patient treated with the CustomVue system has the potential for achieving or improving on his or her own personal best vision.

"CustomVue has also been shown to reduce unwanted side effects, to improve night vision, and even to provide greater visual acuity immediately following surgery when compared to earlier options."

Lifestyle choice

Dr. Behler performed Tim's surgery on January 4, 2007.

"The next day I could see very well at a distance, and within three weeks I was able to return to flying," reports Tim. "My eyes are comfortable, my already good night vision is unchanged, and I have no night time glare, no halos, and no starbursts. Even better, I don't have to worry about my eyeglasses flying off my face anymore when I'm in the cockpit."

There are other benefits, says Tim. "The expense of my eye-wear will certainly be less, and I can enjoy the simple pleasure of drinking a carbonated beverage without getting the fizz on

Gene was eager to have crystalens implants to treat his cataracts before his scheduled driving trip to Michigan to visit family.



FHCN PHOTO BY NERISSA JOHNSON

my glasses, or walking from an air-conditioned building out into the humid Florida air without my glasses fogging up. My peripheral vision is extended, which is so important when landing an airplane. My field of view is no longer restricted by my eyeglass frames.

"CustomVue LASIK was definitely the right lifestyle choice for me."

Crystalens the clear choice to treat cataracts

When Gene Del Barba decided it was time to have his cataracts treated, he made a bold move.

"I'd been seeing another ophthalmologist for years, but I had read about Dr. Scott Behler in *Pinellas Health Care News*," says Gene. "The article was about Dr. Behler's mother and how he treated her cataracts with crystalens implants. I liked what I read, and I wanted him to be my surgeon and regular eye doctor. I scheduled my first appointment with him in November 2006."

Right away, Gene was impressed.

"Dr. Behler examined my eyes and told me that it wasn't essential to have my cataracts treated immediately. I liked his honesty," relates Gene, "but I was eager to have my cataracts treated. I'm 81," he points out, "and this spring my wife and I drove to Michigan to visit our grandchildren. I wanted to have clear vision before that trip."

Even though Gene expressed interest in crystalens intraocular lens implants, Dr. Behler took time to describe the wide range of implant options available to him.

"The crystalens is a high-tech accommodating implant, and Medicare doesn't cover the entire cost of these premium lenses," Dr. Behler points out. "I am careful to make sure patients are fully informed about the medical and financial details for every option that is suitable for them."

"I appreciated Dr. Behler's integrity," says Gene, "but I was hoping to do away with my eyeglasses following surgery. When Dr.



Scott C. Behler, MD, is 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 keratectomy, 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

Behler told me crystalens implants would free me from eyeglasses most of the time and that I was a good candidate for success with them, I felt that the crystalens implants would be a good investment."

Excellent return

Gene says his investment paid off.

"I had my first eye treated December 6, 2006, and the second on December 20," recalls Gene, "and both surgeries were very easy. I went in at about 11 in the morning and was home by 1 o'clock in the afternoon, with no discomfort either time.

"At first, everything seemed very bright to me, but I adjusted to that. I was able to see well in the treated eye following each surgery, and after my second procedure I took my old glasses and donated them to the Lion's Club," Gene reports.

"It seems odd to get up in the morning and not have to wear glasses," he adds, "and I'm still surprised at the things I can read without glasses."

Gene says his crystalens implants have also helped improve his golf game.

"Before my surgeries, I had trouble sighting where the ball was, and now I have no trouble at all," he assures. "And, of course, it's easier to drive the car now, too.

"I'm very happy with the crystalens implants, and I'm very satisfied with the skilled surgeries Dr. Behler performed for me."

FHCN—Billie S. Noakes

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 _____

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