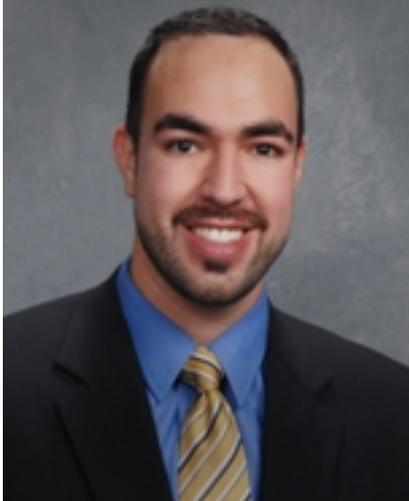


Dr. Rafael Trespacios Performs First Central Florida Laser-Enabled Corneal Transplant

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Medical Director, Dr. Rafael Trespacios

Medical Director, Dr. Rafael Trespacios, of Premier Eye MD and Brevard Eye Center has performed the first laser-enabled corneal transplant in the Central Florida area it was announced today. The recipient of the first laser corneal transplant was a young 22 year old man, blind in both eyes eye from keratoconus, a progressive disease felt to have a hereditary basis.

Corneal transplants restore sight to thousands of patients with diseased or scarred corneas every year. Today, most corneal transplants are performed using a cylindrical metal blade, literally a circular Gillette razor blade, termed a trephine to remove the diseased cornea. The healthy donor cornea is then sutured into place using many tiny sutures. Many successful transplant recipients are resigned to a life of hard contact lenses to wear over the successfully transplanted corneal tissue because of the extreme amounts of corneal astigmatism or irregularity that is a common outcome of such surgeries. Worse still, the wound remains weak. Years after the surgery, even small amounts of trauma to a transplanted eye can result in disastrous consequences.

Dr. Tres feels that the use of a laser is a better way to perform corneal transplants. "The laser is a more precise way to create custom incisions rather than the literal cookie cutter incision that is most commonly performed today and has been the standard now for over 100 years. We can now make custom contoured incisions on the donor and recipient corneas for a perfect geometric match. This allows for a much stronger wound and the potential for less astigmatism" said Tres.

Dr. Trespacios has recently upgraded his LASIK procedure by adding Abbott Medical's iFS IntraLase laser which has FDA clearance to perform LASIK eye

surgery and corneal transplants. He uses the only iFS laser in Central Florida. A unique feature of this laser is its ability to create complex incisions. Tres has used this feature to create tongue-in-groove LASIK flaps which have made the flaps more secure. He believes the use of this feature will make corneal transplants safer and more secure. Another important benefit should be lower degrees of astigmatism. "The precision afforded by this laser in eye surgery will result in safer procedures and improved visual outcomes. Patients will be able to lead a more normal and active lifestyle as a result of these new advances." according to Tres.

Rafael Trespalacios MD is accustomed to pioneering in ophthalmology. In addition to being part of the surgical team five years ago that performed the first laser corneal transplants in the World, he has served for years as the director of Refractive Services at Brevard Eye Center, performing thousands of cutting-edge, sight saving, corneal and cataract procedures. He is the only ophthalmologist in the area to perform Intacs, a corneal insert used in the treatment of keratoconus. He is also the first ophthalmologist in the area to perform Implantable Contact Lenses, a minimally invasive, tissue sparing alternative to LASIK that is endorsed by the United States Military.

Tres has offices in Melbourne, Suntree, Palm Bay, Titusville, Patrick Air Force Base, Sebastian, and Merritt Island, FL and is on staff at Holmes Regional Hospital and is affiliated faculty at University of Central Florida College of Medicine. For more information about Dr. Rafael Trespalacios or his office locations, visit Brevard Eye Center online at www.brevardeye.com or his physician page at www.premiereyemd.com.

Rafael Trespalacios, MD

Brevard Eye Center

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