



PRESS RELEASE

TO: Editor in Charge

CONTACT: Janet Scheffer / Rose Begonia, Mana Means Communications, (808) 521-1160

DATE: January 25, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Choices for Cataract Patients Growing

(Honolulu, Hawaii), January 25, 2010 – Cataract patients have more choices than ever in how they wish to correct their vision following surgery. Technological advances have created a myriad of choices, the scope of which can be confusing.

Until recently, cataract patients usually saw better without glasses following surgery, but almost always needed glasses for reading and often for other activities. With advances in technology, many people with cataracts can achieve good vision for most activities without glasses following surgery.

The technology that makes this advance possible has to do with the tiny lens implant that's placed in the patient's eye at the time of cataract removal. These implants now come in a variety of configurations to allow a greater range of vision without glasses following surgery. Which lens is right for each individual patient depends on the needs of the particular patient. Patients now have a choice of four types of "premium" implants with more choices on the way. The choices can be confusing and complex, and require a careful discussion with the surgeon prior to surgery to determine the best choice for each individual.

A "Premium" lens implant and the work that is required to assure the best possible result are not covered by insurance, but many cataract patients feel it is worth the additional cost to improve their vision without glasses. "People are often highly motivated to reduce their need for eyeglasses," said Christopher Tortora, M.D., Medical Director of the Hawaiian Eye Center. "To be able to achieve good vision distance and near with less need for eyeglasses makes people feel younger."

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Premium lenses currently come in three varieties; multifocal lenses, accommodative lenses, and toric lenses. Multifocal and accommodative lenses are designed to provide an improved range of vision reducing the need for glasses for near and mid-range vision. Toric lenses are designed to correct astigmatism with good distance vision without glasses, but often a need for glasses at near for reading or computer.

Each type and brand of lens has different strengths and weaknesses. To assure the best result, it is best to talk to a surgeon experienced in the use of these premium lenses about your lifestyle needs and what you'd like to be able to do without glasses. With careful planning and an experienced surgeon, most people are extremely happy with their results.

Dr. Tortora, a board certified ophthalmologist, is host of "The Hawaiian Eye Show," a weekly informational radio program about healthy vision. He and his colleagues at Hawaiian Eye Center are committed to educating the public about the importance of preventative eye care. To learn more about a variety of eye health issues, please call the Hawaiian Eye Center at 621-8488 where *"life has never looked better."*

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**MANA MEANS COMMUNICATIONS 1088 BISHOP ST. STE. 1209
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 PH 808.521.1160 FAX 808.521-1104**