



PRESS RELEASE

TO: Medical Editor
FROM: Teal Thompson, Mana Means Advertising & Public Relations
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CLIENT: Hawaiian Eye Center

Photo Attached

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Cataract Surgery procedure performed First in Hawaii by Hawaiian Eye Center's Dr. Tortora

(Honolulu, Hawaii), March 23, 2005- The first case of Microincisional Cataract Surgery utilizing “Cold Phaco” technology was performed in Hawaii this month. This advanced technology and new procedure has been performed in cataract centers throughout the country for about a year, but only now has been brought to Hawaii’s shores. This revolutionary procedure facilitates cataract removal through an incision almost half the size of the most modern technique currently available in the state. Christopher Tortora, M.D. performed the first procedure of this type in Hawaii at the Hawaiian Eye Surgery Center in Wahiawa. The new procedure involves removing a cataract through an incision of 1.5 mm or 1/16”, resulting in reduced trauma to the eye and a quicker return to improved vision. This procedure is made possible by an advance in technology called “Cold Phaco”.

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As the name implies, the ultrasound energy used to remove the cataract is digitally modulated in such a way as to reduce the heat which can build-up around the ultrasound instrument used during cataract removal. Reducing the heat lessens the need for external insulation of the instrument, thus permitting removal of the cataract through a smaller incision. Cold digital ultrasound is also more efficient than traditional ultrasound, enabling surgery to be gentler on the eye and reducing the risk of corneal warming and wound burns that can occur during surgery. Thus, many patients undergoing surgery with this new technology have better results the day after surgery. Cataract is a gradual opacification of the crystalline lens within the eye, which results in decreased vision over time. Cataract is more common as we age and is the leading cause of blindness worldwide. It is also one of the chief causes of reduced vision in the United States. Cataract surgery is one of the most frequently performed surgical procedures on adults over age 65 worldwide. Close to 13,000 cataract procedures are performed in Hawaii each year. Dr. Tortora said, "I'm pleased that Hawaiian Eye Center can once again be the leader in bringing advances in cataract care to the people of Hawaii." Hawaiian Eye center operates offices throughout the state and is Hawaii's premier eye care provider. Its state-of-the-art surgery center allows for high quality surgery utilizing the latest technology in a comfortable setting.

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