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Shands cornea transplant procedure clears up sight!

HEALTH CARE

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For 10 years, Herise Wilcox of Jacksonville lived with blurry vision in one eye, the result of an accidental injury to her cornea.

Despite glasses and two laser eye Surgeries, Wilcox still could not see Clearly. "My vision was very poor in

my right eye," she said. "I knew I was not seeing things that I should have been seeing." Wilcox sought help from Dr. Arun Gulani, chief of cornea and external disease at the University of Florida Department of Ophthalmology in Jacksonville. Gulani offered a new solution for her problem.

Gulani performed a Homoplastic Lamellar Keratoplasty, replacing a portion of her cornea with a donated cornea.

Using a new Video Slitlamp Photography system to perform an indepth evaluation of Wilcox's corneal scar, Gulani was better able to match

the donated cornea to the section he had removed.

The use of Lamellar replacement provides quicker recovery and a decreased chance of the recipient rejecting the cornea, because as little of the original cornea is removed as possible, Gulani said.

Gulani became one of the first physicians in the nation to acquire a Baush & Lomb Dual workstation. The new technology allows Gulani to get a detailed view of the inner workings of the eye, allowing him to better plan corrective surgery. ■

The Florida Times-Union

Jacksonville

METRO

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Radiation therapy once used on range of ills

Q: I am considering the LASIK procedure to correct farsightedness and an astigmatism. I am 65 and wonder if this procedure is recommended for me.

James Hoover, Jacksonville

A: Among the spectrum of surgeries available to treat farsightedness and astigmatism, LASIK enjoys higher success in the low-to-middle range of farsightedness.

For higher levels of farsightedness, procedures involving powered lenses inside the eye are more effective and predictable. These are based on the status of the patient's own crystalline lens. If the patient's own

crystalline lens is clear, then a contact lens is placed in front of it inside the eye — an intraocular contact lens. If it's a cataract, it is removed and an artificial lens is placed in its position in the eye.

Both of these procedures can include simultaneous astigmatism correction using precision instruments and personalized formulas. Also, LASIK and intraocular lens can be offered as a combination surgery. Combinations and variants of different procedures provide a wide choice for patient care in vision correction surgery.

Being 65, you most definitely have another co-existing condition, presbyopia. This compounds the problem with pre-existing

farsightedness. Here again, the surgical plan can be adjusted to overcorrect your non-dominant eye so it ends up being nearsighted. This is called monovision, which can result in a happy medium addressing farsightedness, astigmatism and co-existing presbyopia.

A detailed patient exam, intensive data collection and patient expectation is what helps to select the surgical procedure, site of surgery and outcome expected. You first will need a full eye exam to determine the health of your eye, the level of farsightedness and astigmatism and also your need to correct or neglect the existing presbyopia.

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Health Q&A

