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BIZ!: Former PGA golfer sees good results in new type of eye surgery



Breakthrough technique

When former PGA golfer Donnie Hammond needed eye surgery, he turned to Jacksonville eye surgeon Dr. Arun Gulani, who used a technique thought to be employed for the first time in the area.

Hammond, a two-time winner on the PGA Tour who attended Jacksonville University, wanted Gulani to correct some scarring on his eye that was a relic of a radial keratotomy procedure to improve his vision.



Gulani grafted a membrane on to Hammond's eye and secured it not with the traditional stitches but with glue. The glue has long been used in vascular surgery but its use in eye surgery is new. Gulani said he has done the procedure overseas, but used it for the first

time when he operated on Hammond Feb. 15 and thinks it was the first time the procedure was done locally.

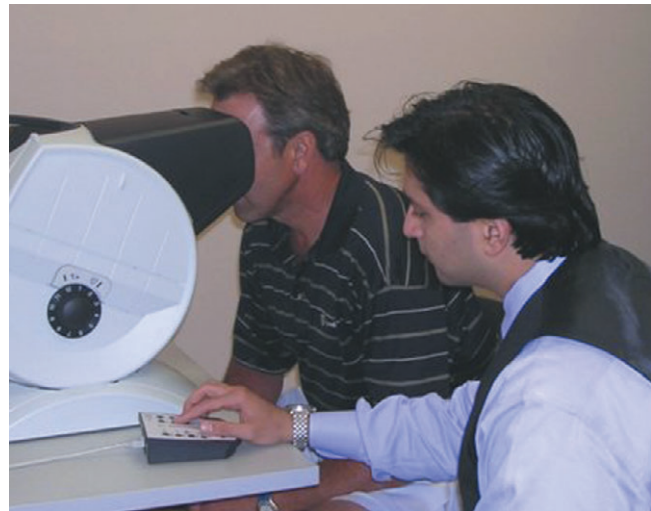
"The beauty is not putting stitches in the eye, there's no astigmatism, and it prevents fibrosis and bleeding," said Gulani, who runs the Gulani Vision Institute in Southpoint.

Gulani said the procedure went well and Hammond is "happy as a clam," and will recommend the doctor to other golfers. The recommendation could be lucrative. The growth of tissue that Gulani removed from Hammond is thought to be caused in part by exposure to the sun, which is an occupational hazard for all professional golfers.

— Stewart Verney



Dr. Gulani with Donnie Hammond who is a Two time PGA Golf Champion after a successful Glued (without stitches) Amniotic Membrane Surgery for Pterygium.



Dr. Gulani testing Donnie Hammond on an Advanced Vision testing device using Quality of Vision with computerized simulation after surgery.