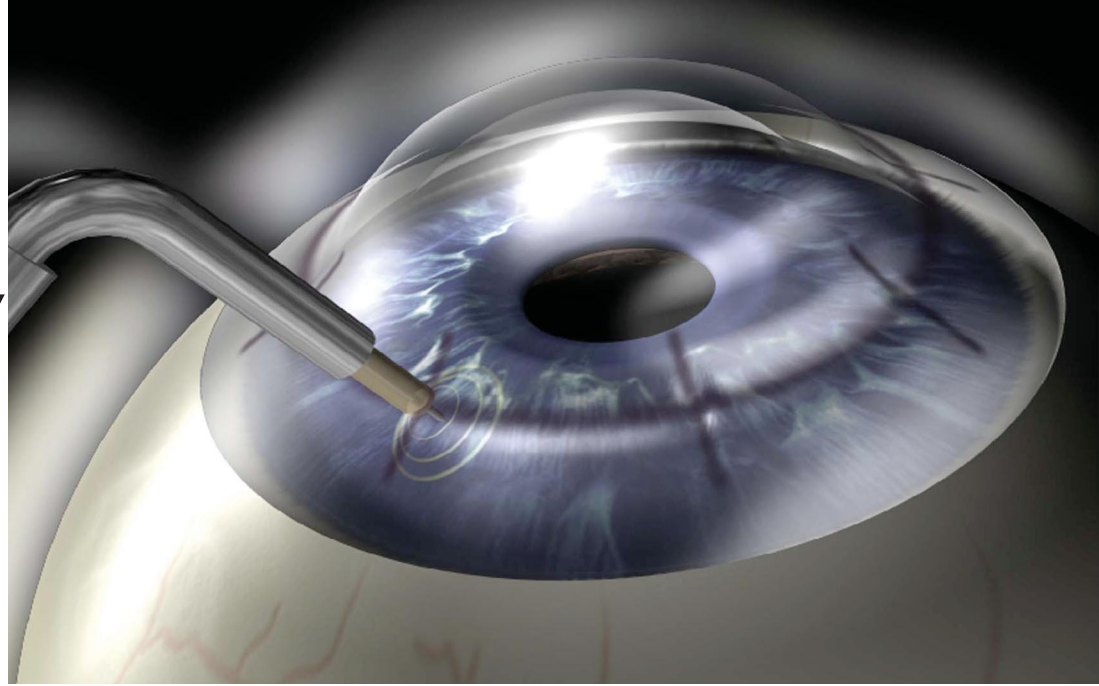


CK



Conductive Keratoplasty: A Technical Boon for the Baby Boomers!

By Laura L. Harris, M.D. & Alan W. Brown, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Can you read this?

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If you required reading glasses to answer these questions “yes”, then this article may be extremely exciting for you. Some 60 million Americans suffer from presbyopia (a type of farsightedness), which is a progressive condition often requiring correction with reading glasses around the time a person turns 40. Presently, “Baby Boomers” comprise the largest segment of the farsighted population and many view the need for reading glasses as a sign of aging. Symptoms include difficulty reading menus, price tags, a computer screen or an alarm clock, or the need to constantly reposition reading material to find the right focus.

Today there is an exciting new procedure CK, Conductive Keratoplasty, that is FDA approved for the correction of mild to moderate farsightedness and is under FDA study for presbyopia. CK is the first alternative to glasses, contacts, or laser surgery for treating these conditions. CK uses radio frequency energy delivered by a small probe, thin as a strand of human hair. The probe releases radio frequency energy to reshape the cornea and adjust its refractive characteristics. Radio frequency is one of today’s most advanced surgical technologies. It is routinely used in other procedures such as prostate cancer therapy, back surgery and cardiovascular procedures. CK uses pinpoint accurate pulses of radio frequency energy to reshape and steepen

corneal tissue resulting in improved vision, especially for reading. The surgeon applies the probe in a circular pattern on the outer cornea to shrink small areas of corneal tissue. This circular shrinkage pattern creates a constrictive band (like tightening of a belt), increasing the overall curvature of the cornea to treat farsightedness. More than 20 years of research into this technique have established the parameters for achieving this refractive change. Approved by the FDA in 2002 after five years of successful clinical trials in the US and abroad, CK has proven to be a safe, effective alternative to laser surgery.

The procedure is performed in the office of Dr. Brown and Dr. Harris. Because CK does not involve cutting or lasers, the procedure can be conveniently performed with only a drop of topical anesthesia. Although there is an extensive 2 hour pre-operative evaluation performed several days before the surgery, the procedure itself takes approximately five minutes. The actual CK procedure is considered painless, but the patient may feel mild scratchiness that night of surgery. Improvement in vision can be noticed immediately after the procedure. Once finished, you don’t have to wear a patch and usually return to work the next day. Vision continues to improve over the course of several weeks.

“Baby Boomers” often have good distance vision but reduced reading vision. As a result, they usually only require one eye to be treated with CK. The advantage of CK is that the improvement in near vision comes with very little change

in distance vision in the treated eyes. This is called “blended vision.” Blended vision is quite different than monovision, which is done with LASIK and contacts. In monovision the eye for the near cannot see well in the distance. In blended vision the “near eye” is not treated to be able to read fine print but simply to “back up the hands of time.” Blended vision allows both eyes to work well at distance while improving near vision enough to read your watch, a price tag, see your cell phone or a menu. In other words, it helps you avoid fumbling for your glasses all the time.

Alan W. Brown, M.D. and Laura L. Harris, M.D. are now performing CK (Conductive Keratoplasty), at Brown Laser Eye Care a division of Surgical Eye Care, P.A. They are pleased to be the first ophthalmology practice in Eastern North Carolina and one of just a handful in the U.S. to perform this procedure.

The following are basic criteria to be considered as a candidate for Conductive Keratoplasty:

- Age 40 or over
- No drastic changes in vision or eye-glass prescription within the past year.
- No eye conditions such as glaucoma, severe dryness, keratoconus
- No problems with the cornea, or aggressive scar formation after surgery.



Dr. Laura L. Harris is a Board Certified, Residency and Fellowship trained Cataract, Corneal Refractive Surgeon. She did her training at the #1 ranked Wilmer Ophthalmological Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She practices Ophthalmology at Surgical Eye Care, P.A. along with her founding associate Dr. Allan Brown.

Dr. Alan Brown, Cataract and Refractive Surgery Specialist for Surgical Eye Care, P.A. is also the director of the Horizon Vision Research Incorporated. Dr. Brown is a leader in the field of cataract and refractive surgery and has developed instruments around the world to make refractive surgery more accurate.