

Theda Clark Eye Center First to Implant Lens for Nearsightedness

Michael Vrabc, MD, of Valley Eye Associates, began performing vision enhancements using the Verisyse implantable contact lens October 6. The Food and Drug Administration approved the procedure Sept. 13.



The implantable lens improves vision and can reduce or eliminate dependency on glasses for severely nearsighted patients.

This lens provides an alternative to glasses, contact lenses or laser surgery for people who have trouble seeing distant objects. During this minor surgical procedure, a surgeon slips a corrective lens through a small incision and implants it between the patient's pupil and cornea. The surgery takes about 15 minutes and is performed using only local anesthesia.

Once inserted, these implantable lenses work like any regular contact lens, with the added benefit that they do not have to be continually removed, inserted and cleaned. Ideally the lens can remain inside the patient's eye for life, but should a patient's situation change or the patient not want it any more, it can be easily removed with no adverse side effects.