

J10 New Glaucoma Surgery

March 2009

Intro: Glaucoma is an eye disease that slowly robs people of their vision, often without them even knowing it. It is one of the leading causes of blindness in the United States. Treatment to stop the progression of glaucoma includes drops for mild cases or surgery when the disease is more advanced. But now doctors at Mayo Clinic are using another, less-invasive procedure to stop glaucoma and save vision.

Video

Total running time 1:47

Audio

[SOUND OF BEN READING]
TO BENJAMIN BURR, THE IDEAL
AFTERNOON IS ONE SPENT
READING ABOUT THE TITANIC
WITH HIS WIFE VIRGINIA.
“I’M A BIT OF A TITANIC FREAK.”
AND WHEN, DURING A ROUTINE
EYE EXAM, DOCTORS DIAGNOSED
BEN WITH GLAUCOMA, HE
WORRIED ABOUT LOSING HIS
VISION AND HIS ABILITY TO READ.
“MY GOD, I DON’T KNOW WHAT I’D
DO WITHOUT IT.”
LIKE MANY PEOPLE WITH
GLAUCOMA, BENJAMIN HAD
MINIMAL SYMPTOMS.

CG :24 to :31
Benjamin Burr
Has Glaucoma

“A LITTLE BIT FOGGY AND BLURRY
OUT IN THE PERIPHERY, THE
OUTSIDE OF THE RIGHT EYE.”

GLAUCOMA OCCURS WHEN THE
EYE'S NATURAL DRAINAGE
SYSTEM BECOMES CLOGGED AND
FAILS TO DRAIN FLUID PROPERLY.
THE FLUID BUILDS UP, CAUSING
THE PRESSURE INSIDE YOUR EYE,
CALLED THE INTRA OCULAR
PRESSURE, TO RISE. THE
ELEVATED PRESSURE CAN
DAMAGE THE OPTIC NERVE,
ALTERING YOUR VISION.

CG :48 to :56
Rajesh Shetty, M.D.
Mayo Clinic

“USUALLY WE TREAT PEOPLE WITH
MEDICATIONS, EYE DROPS. AND
THEN IF THE EYE DROPS DON'T
WORK WE USE LASERS AND TRY
TO MODIFY THE DRAINAGE
SYSTEM.”

Standup
CG:57 to 1:05

DR. RAJESH SHETTY SAYS

Vivien Williams
Reporting

ANOTHER OPTION FOR MORE SEVERE CASES IS SURGERY TO CONSTRUCT A NEW DRAINAGE SYSTEM. BUT SOMETIMES THESE PROCEDURES DON'T WORK. NOW, HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES AT MAYO CLINIC ARE PERFORMING A NEW OPERATION THAT'S MORE EFFECTIVE THAN DROPS ALONE, BUT LESS INVASIVE AND SAFER THAN STANDARD SURGERY. DURING THE PROCEDURE DR. SHETTY NUMBS THE EYE AND MAKES A TINY INCISION INTO THE SIDE OF THE CORNEA. THEN HE INSERTS A PROBE THAT OPENS UP AND REMOVES A PORTION OF THE COVERING OF THE INTERNAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM. THIS DROPS THE INTRA OCULAR PRESSURE AND PREVENTS FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE OPTIC NERVE.

[SOUND OF BEN READING]

BEFORE THE PROCEDURE BEN
SAID HIS RIGHT EYE GREW TIRED
AFTER 20 MINUTES OF READING.
“LAST NIGHT I READ AN HOUR AND
10 MINUTES WITHOUT ANY
TROUBLE AT ALL.”
FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I’M VIVIEN
WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

Dr. Shetty says this new surgery offers patients another option for treating glaucoma.

He recommends that all people be screened for Glaucoma by an ophthalmologist or optometrist starting at age 60. But if you have a family history of the disease or are African American or Latin American, you should be screened earlier.

For more information on glaucoma, visit our Website at...**[STATIONS: Per the licensing agreement, please provide a link from your station's website to <http://www.mayoclinic.org> or voice tag "mayoclinic.org" for more information.]**