

SOUTHWESTERN NEWS

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UT SOUTHWESTERN PHYSICIANS PERFORM NEW INTACS PROCEDURE

DALLAS—June 22, 1999—Two UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas physicians are among the first ophthalmologists in Texas to perform Intacs implants surgery, a vision-correction procedure just approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Intacs—tiny, transparent ring segments inserted into the cornea—can correct mild nearsightedness, or myopia, permanently. The rings are removable, distinguishing the procedure from other vision-correction operations.

Dr. James McCulley, chairman of ophthalmology, and Dr. Wayne Bowman, an associate professor of ophthalmology, traveled to the Chicago headquarters of the maker of Intacs, Keravision, in April to learn the procedure.

“The advantage of Intacs is that they can be removed or replaced,” McCulley said. “For those reluctant to pursue permanent eye correction, Intacs provides an excellent alternative.”

Intacs work by flattening the curvature of the cornea. Different thicknesses of Intacs correct varying amounts of corneal curvature, or nearsightedness.

Intacs can be implanted in a patient's eye in a 15-minute outpatient procedure with only local anesthesia. A tiny incision is made in the cornea, and the Intacs are then inserted into small corneal pockets.

Patients can usually see 15 minutes after the procedure, and total recovery time is typically less than three days, McCulley said.

The rings are made of clear polymer, the same material used to make contact lenses. The patient cannot feel or see the rings.

Patients with -1.0 to -3.0 diopters myopia with less than 1 diopter of astigmatism are candidates for the procedure. For more information about the procedure, call (214) 648-4842.

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