



Veteran Jackson eye doctor keeps edge in technology

JACKSON, Miss. — Discovering a good doctor is an exciting prospect for any patient.

Dr. Connie McCaa, M.D., Ph.D., who is a long-time choice for many Northsiders with vision problems, continues to be "discovered" by new patients. Some, like Anna Pickle, find physicians nowadays by following the newest technology.

Today, Pickle has perfect eyesight, which she feels involved three "miracles."

The first was that Pickle had LASIK laser treatment – at all – to correct her vision. "I'm a scary-type person. I'd been afraid to do it," Pickle, 31, said. "I have so many friends with bad vision who are scared to do it."

The second miracle was: "It wasn't a scary thing at all," she said. McCaa performed her LASIK at the McCaa's LASIK Laser Eye Center in Flowood. "There was no fear. They talked me through it. It was no big deal," Pickle said. "It's very fast."

The third miracle involved science. "The fact that Dr. McCaa did correct me to 20/20 vision was amazing. I've had horrible, horrible vision since fourth grade," the mother of two said. "Without her machine, there's no way I could have risked having it done."

McCaa's machine is the state-of-the-art Pentacam HR. For six months, McCaa has had the only Pentacam HR in metro Jackson.

The 3-D corneal scanner is at McCaa's ophthalmology clinic, in the West Tower of St. Dominic's Hospital in Jackson. The Pentacam is used for all LASIK patients' pre-exams as well as for many cataract, lens implant, and other refractive surgeries. It reads up to 138,000 elevation points in the cornea (the clear layer over the front of the eye).

"The Pentacam HR tells me whether a patient's corneas are thick enough to safely and successfully perform LASIK," McCaa explained. Thin corneas are one of the most common causes of LASIK complications nationwide, although complications are relatively rare.

McCaa said fear of LASIK is not uncommon. "It's natural that patients like Anna, who already have poor eyesight, would fear losing their eyesight if there are complications. But I've never had any patient lose their sight from LASIK." McCaa has performed LASIK thousands of times.

Because Pickle of Kosciusko was extremely nearsighted (with astigmatism), that can be associated with thin corneas. But the Pentacam indicated Pickles' corneas were thick enough to have LASIK safely.

Timothy Deeds, who represents Pentacam HR manufacturer Oculus Inc. of Germany, called it "the best insurance policy you can have. There are none in the Jackson area, still, but Dr. McCaa's. She's certainly a step ahead. It can offer a tremendous safety level to her patients." Deeds noted that U.S. military hospitals are required to have a Pentacam HR for LASIK and other refractive surgeries.

Pickle heard about the Pentacam from her Kosciusko optometrist, Dr. Angela Thomas, who referred her to McCaa. Another doctor as well as a friend, who already had received LASIK from McCaa, also encouraged her to go. "I became aware that Dr. McCaa has years of experience and prides herself in staying up-to-date with the newest technology," Pickle said.

A nationally known authority in refractive surgery, McCaa was one of the first in the country to perform LASIK. Ranked for a decade as one of the Best Doctors in America, she has been board certified since 1983. McCaa also is well known as a consultant surgeon for correcting other refractive surgeon's LASIK complications.

Pickle's vision isn't the only outlook that has changed.

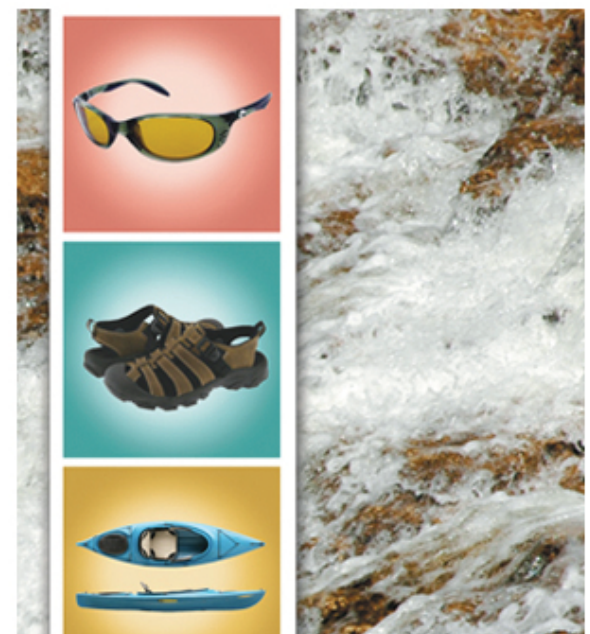
"Every morning, I think about the LASIK. It's a gift," Pickle said. "I'm already thinking about my first summer without having glasses or contacts and doing water sports, without worrying that my contacts will fall out.

"For my husband, Rob, it's been an enlightening experience for him to see my face light up – just because I'm able to see!"

For more information on the Pentacam HR, go to www.ConnieMcCaa.com and click on the "St. Dominic" page.



Smartphone Plan \$49.99/mo
"perhaps one of the best bargains yet"
crackberry.com
Start saving
cellularsouth



February 8, 2009



DR. CONNIE MCCA delivered three speeches at the 25th annual Winter Seminar of the Hawaiian Ophthalmological Society in Honolulu. McCaa has two ophthalmology clinics in metro Jackson. McCaa's medical lectures in Hawaii covered how to optimize LASIK outcomes and prevent complications, as well as how to treat LASIK complications. She also delivered a luncheon address on political action and tort reform concerning ophthalmology.