

# “Experiencing a world without any dependence on glasses”

The Commercial Courier discusses the services and procedures provided at the newly relocated state-of-the-art Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic with General Manager **Andrei Camenzuli**.

## What services and procedures are offered at Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic, particularly with regard to correcting one's vision and eliminating the need for glasses once and for all?

Since the introduction of the new Femtosecond laser to our clinic 10 months ago, we are now able to offer a safe and reliable solution to practically every individual wishing to remove both far and close sighted glasses. This is uniquely available at the Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic. With Femtolaser, we are nowadays performing minimally invasive procedures such as SMILE, which is the safest and most popular refractive treatment of choice worldwide.

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The new Femtolasik technology also allows us to offer solutions to those people wanting to remove the inconvenience of needing glasses for far as well as close vision (presbyopia), producing impressive results, giving people improved quality of life by experiencing a world without any dependence on glasses.

The greatest advantages of this unique technology over the previous generation of laser systems is that patients do not feel any pain both during and after the surgery, and experience immediate visual recovery, which is truly impressive. With older methods such as surface ablation procedure (PRK), most patients tend to experience a considerable amount of pain and visual recovery can be very slow, taking several weeks to stabilise. This inconvenience is completely eliminated with the Femtolasik and SMILE procedures carried out at the Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic today.

## Are tests/consultations carried by the surgeon prior to treatment to ensure individual compatibility with treatment?

Pre-screening is crucial to the successful outcome of refractive laser surgery. In fact all patients will first attend an informative lecture where detailed information regarding laser surgery and the various options are discussed. The lecture provides patients with the opportunity to share any questions they would have as well as to familiarise themselves with the facility and the setup of this specialised clinic.

Following this, a pre refractive surgery assessment is performed by our specialised and experienced optometrists in refractive surgery together with the supporting refractive surgery assessment team. The last step is to have a consultation with your surgeon of choice to determine which procedure will be most appropriate to ensure the best possible refractive outcome.

## What is the expected recovery time following treatment? And what follow-ups are required post-treatment?

Patients undergoing these procedures will be able to resume with their work routine two days following the treatment or even earlier, with most clients reporting that they were able to return to work the following day.

Patients are asked to attend a post op visit the following day after the treatment and two further assessments one after a week and a final one after four weeks.

## How long-term are the benefits of such interventions? And what is the success rate like?

Prior to undergoing refractive surgery we ensure that the person's vision has been stable for at least a year to avoid the risk of any changes in vision post laser. Once the



treatment is done there should be no need to wear glasses again.

The satisfaction rate recorded by patients following Femtolasik and SMILE procedures is impressively high, with the vast majority of patients reporting a significant improvement in their quality of life within the first week of undergoing treatment.

## Traditionally, business people and professionals might have been discouraged to undergo laser eye treatment due to the slow recovery process. Are these new treatments an option for such individuals now?

The new refractive surgery procedures which are exclusively available at the Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic allow for immediate pain free visual recovery - something our treated clients refer to as the 'wow effect'.

So yes we do recommend these treatments to professional people without any hesitation. **cc**

**Contact the Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic on T: 2247 2630;  
E: [info@stjheyeclinik.com](mailto:info@stjheyeclinik.com);  
[www.stjheyeclinik.com](http://www.stjheyeclinik.com)**



## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE - ANTHONY APAP

“Having Femtolasik surgery was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I was informed that my glasses prescription had to be stable with no changes for at least 12 months so that made me a good candidate for the surgery. The feeling of opening your eyes in the morning and seeing clearly felt amazing! The procedure is actually very fast; not more than 15 to 20 minutes for both eyes. There is no pain involved, and no injections are given. The staff of Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic made sure I knew what was going on all throughout the surgery, so I felt safe and reassured.

I was back to work two days after the procedure. Looking back, I must admit that I had worried a lot unnecessarily before the surgery and I would highly recommend the Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic for making this possible and for the excellent service! I feel like a new person with renewed energy and motivation.”