

Helping patients eliminate the need for sighted glasses

Guide Me meets Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic General Manager Andrei Camenzuli and tours this state-of-the-art clinic that is enabling thousands to see again without glasses or contact lenses.

Can you outline the laser services offered at the Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic?

We provide a full spectrum of surgeries to enable our patients to eliminate the use of glasses. We offer a solution to every individual who is willing to eliminate both far and close sighted glasses. This only became possible through the most advanced Femto laser system, which was introduced to the Maltese islands by Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic. The eye clinic has been working successfully in the refractive area for the past 23 years.

With Femto laser we can perform minimal invasive surgeries such as SMILE procedures, whereby a lenticule is removed from the cornea to get corrected far vision. Presbyond (laser blended vision) can also be performed to eliminate the need for reading glasses.

The major advancements brought about by this laser system are that patients do not feel any pain both during and after surgery, and visual recovery is very quick unlike other methods such as surface ablation procedure (PRK) where patients experience a considerable amount of pain and visual recovery takes up to two weeks for clear vision to be restored.

What does laser surgery involve from a patient perspective?

Patients interested in undergoing this procedure are required to attend an informative lecture on the types of surgeries available. Following



The Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic has a huge database of happy customers. Here Anthony Apap tells us how this FemtoLasik surgery has changed his life.

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 procedure is actually very fast; not more than 15 to 20 minutes for both eyes. I felt no pain whatsoever, and I wasn't administered any injection. The staff of Saint James Hospital Eye clinic made sure I knew what was going on throughout the surgery, so I felt safe and reassured.

At first, my eyes were getting dry, but I was given lubricating eye drops to apply at home as needed. 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, and the feeling of opening my eyes in the morning and seeing clearly is amazing!

the presentation, patients can book an appointment for a pre-refractive surgery assessment, which is performed by an optometrist who is specialised in refractive surgery together with the eye clinic team. Lastly, a consultation is offered with the patient's surgeon of choice to determine which procedure would be best for optimal results.

Patients undergoing these procedures are able to resume their work routine two days after surgery,

although most patients claim that they were able to return to work the day after surgery. Patients are required to attend post-op visits the day after the operation, a week later, and four weeks later. ☺



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