



SEE CLEARLY WITHOUT GLASSES - WHATEVER YOUR AGE

The new Femtolasik treatment is relatively painless and its results may be experienced almost instantly, positioning it at the forefront of sight corrective procedures. **Dana Bonello** catches up with **Andrei Camenzuli**, Clinic Manager at the Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic, B’Kara.



In September this year, Saint James Hospital launched its ophthalmic centre of excellence after relocating to new purposely designed and equipped premises in B’Kara.

Over the years, the Eye Clinic has garnered a robust reputation as an industry pioneer, consistently introducing the latest technological advancements to the Maltese islands, with the latest being the Femtolasik laser treatment.

“This procedure is one of the most advanced types of laser correction,” Andrei explains. “Additionally, its faster than surface treatment, leads to immediate visual recovery with none of the pain associated to its predecessors.”

Eligible candidates include those over 18 years of age, are myopic from -1.0D up to -10.0D, hyperopic from +1.0D up to +4.0D, or astigmatic from +4.0D up to -4.0D, giving individuals the unique opportunity to see clearly once again without the aid of glasses or contact lenses.

Andrei explains how whereas various types of laser treatment majorly lead to the same results, this newer technology is associated with significantly less pain or discomfort as well as almost immediate visual recovery. “Most patients will experience recovering almost 95% of their vision within the first 24 hours. This means that patients are able to resume their daily lives, including attending work, the very next day,” he explains.

At this point I am mostly intrigued, but cannot help but wonder how safe the procedure actually is. “Lasik is by far the most commonly performed refractive laser procedure worldwide. It

is a very safe and reliable procedure. With the advent of the femtosecond lasers, the creation of the corneal flap has become accurate and safe eliminating certain previously encountered risks when done using manual techniques,” he reassures me. This is the only such laser on the Island and is the result of an investment of over EUR 1 million.

But of course, the proof is in the pudding. For this reason we’ve asked a past patient to detail her experience, here’s what Marlene Abela, 49 years old, had to say:

“I had been reading about laser refractive surgery for the past 6 years or so, when I recently came across the article about the new Femtolasik corrective surgery being carried out at Saint James, I decided to take the plunge and undergo the procedure around two months ago. I am proud to say that today I enjoy perfectly clear and unaided vision. My presenting refraction was Right eye +3 D and Left eye +2D. Interestingly, my vision is hyperopic (I am long sighted), and surgery was unavailable to my condition before the advent of the Femtolasik.

I have nothing but praise for my treating doctor, Mr Melvin Gouder and his team. They were exceptional throughout, talking me through the surgery and keeping me at ease during this short procedure.

I am the type of person who would generally shudder at the thought of a needle, yet I am proud to have finally mustered the courage to go through with this surgery. If I could do it, then anybody can!” ✨

