

SEE CLEARLY... *Without Glasses...* WHATEVER YOUR AGE!

Millions of people around the world have experienced the joy of having their sight restored. Locally, one clinic leads the way, enabling thousands to see again without glasses or contact lenses. Here, *Jo Caruana* takes a tour of the newly relocated Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic in Birkirkara.



In the 16 years it has been operating, the Saint James Hospital Eye Clinic has helped over 80,000 patients by pioneering a vast range of ophthalmic technological advancement in Malta. Most recently, the hospital set up a state-of-the-art clinic just off the Birkirkara Bypass, which offers a range of services that have never been offered locally before.

Their latest advancement is in refractive surgery, which restores clear vision whatever your age; it is one of a number of solutions that restore perfect vision without the need

for glasses or contact lenses. In fact, their most cutting-edge introduction – Femtolasik Laser Surgery – is renowned for having the quickest recovery time ever, with most patients having their vision restored within less than 24 hours – and some within mere minutes.

“Femtolasik is by far the most commonly performed refractive laser procedure worldwide,” explains clinic manager Andrei Camenzuli. “It is very well developed, offering very pain-free, safe and predictable outcomes. While this is a type of surgery there are, of course, still some risks, but they are much, much lower.”

The surgery works by creating millions of air bubbles beneath the surface of the cornea and, within seconds, a flap is created. “That flap is easily lifted by the treating doctor and Excimer laser is then performed on the surface of the cornea. The flap is then put back into place and it seals by itself,” Mr Camenzuli continues.



The entire team at the Saint James Eye Clinic is dedicated to ensuring the best possible patient outcomes, without exception. All the team has received extensive training locally and overseas, from the nurses that assist during client visits and the front office staff that will greet you on arrival,

to the professional managers, highly-skilled optometrists and dedicated team of doctors and specialists.

“Our team is committed to offering a warm and friendly welcome to each and every patient, putting the patient at the centre of all that we do and, true to the spirit of our vision, giving a service with pride and excellence. For us, it’s all about restoring sight to our patients in the best possible way, even if they didn’t think it would be possible!” Mr Camenzuli adds. ■



The Saint James Eye Clinic has a huge database of happy customers. Here two of them tell us how this FemtoLasik surgery has changed their lives.

Kevin Muscat

“I’d worn glasses since I was 15 and contact lenses for the past eight years, and I eventually got fed up of the dry eyes they cause. So, I finally found the courage to have laser treatment done and approached the staff at Saint James for advice. They were so friendly, knowledgeable and professional that they put my mind at rest. So, after a pre-treatment test to confirm my eligibility, I booked in. The procedure was so short I didn’t even have time to worry! It was completely painless and the team made it as pleasant as possible. I have since been over the moon with the outcome, as I can now see without glasses or contact lenses, from close or from far. It is the best investment I have ever made and I am very grateful to the staff and, in particular to Mr Francis Carbonaro, for their professional service and quality of care.”

Charlene Abela

“After a lifetime of feeling encumbered by my spectacles (I never wore contact lenses), I came across an article discussing Femtosecond Laser treatment and plucked up the courage to set an appointment with my ophthalmologist Mr Ivan Vella. Following the routine tests and information sessions, I proceeded to have the treatment a few days later.”
“Having Femtolasik surgery was definitely one of the best decisions I have ever made. The feeling of opening my eyes in the morning and seeing clearly feels like a miracle! The procedure itself took around 20 minutes in all and it was pain-free with no injections or painkillers required. The staff all made me feel safe and reassured, and looking back I admit that I should have taken this step years earlier as I now feel like a new person!”