bringing life into focus

Laser Cataract Surgery and Lens Implants
Our Vision Serves To Enhance Yours
Every day, you participate in activities that require focused vision. Whether it’s reading a newspaper, driving a car or hitting a golf ball, clear vision is essential to your safety and enjoyment.

For over three decades, the physicians at Gordon-Weiss-Schanzlin Vision Institute have been helping people bring life into focus using vision correction surgery. Since then we have performed over 75,000 refractive and cataract procedures and remain one of the world-leaders in treating nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism, presbyopia and cataracts using advanced laser and implant techniques.

We are pioneers in the industry and are committed to outstanding patient care. If you are ready to see the world in a whole new way, we are ready to provide you with the best experience possible.

More Options Than Ever Before
Gordon-Weiss-Schanzlin Vision Institute offers a variety of surgical and non-surgical options for correcting vision problems. Throughout this brochure you will find a brief summary of procedures that fit your specific needs.

By utilizing world class technologies, our physicians are capable of fully customizing your treatment plan for optimum results.
Your Vision Is Hazy, Cloudy Or Blurry Due to Cataracts
A cataract is a clouding of the normally clear lens in your eye. Though painless, cataracts restrict the amount of light entering your eye and may cause hazy vision, unusual glare, poor night vision or a reduction in color perception. Once this happens, schedule an evaluation to determine which type of cataract procedure is right for your lifestyle and expectations.

The Solution: Laser Cataract Surgery
Cataract surgery is the most frequently performed surgery in the United States with over 1.5 million surgeries performed each year. At GWS, we are excited to offer the latest advances in cataract surgery. Laser refractive cataract surgery (LRx) utilizes a femtosecond laser to perform the initial portion of the surgery. Utilization of a laser makes the surgery safer and more precise. This gives you the best opportunity for the optimal result. The other tremendous advantage of LRx is that it can treat your astigmatism at the time of the cataract surgery. Astigmatism can cause distorted or blurred vision. Treating the astigmatism at the time of surgery allows for improved vision after surgery.

Refractive Cataract surgery has progressed from a procedure that removes the cloudy lens to a procedure that makes vision more functional by decreasing dependency on glasses or contact lenses. By utilizing the laser in conjunction with the latest implants, many patients have little or no need for glasses after cataract surgery.

Variety Of Implant Options
Treating cataracts involves a surgical procedure to remove the cloudy lens and replace it with a clear, plastic intraocular lens (IOL). Today, a variety of implant lenses are available. Nine out of 10 people who have cataract surgery restore their vision to between 20/20 and 20/40, good enough to pass a driver’s test in most states without glasses or contact lenses.

Lens Options
A Standard Monofocal Lens is the traditional lens that has been used for years and is designed to correct your vision at one focusing point once the cataract is removed. With this lens option, it is not uncommon to need glasses for distance, intermediate, or near vision and to correct astigmatism. You may need bifocals, progressive lenses or reading glasses following your procedure.

Deluxe Cataract Implants are an amazing advance in technology, giving people more freedom and better vision than they ever imagined. During the procedure, the physician replaces the cloudy lens with a lens that allows patients to enjoy great vision at any distance – without the need for corrective lenses (even reading glasses) for most people. However, it is important to note that not everyone will gain 20/20 vision at all distances after this procedure. Following this procedure, you may still need corrective lenses for reading or to focus on objects in low light.
An Astigmatism Correcting Lens (Toric) is designed for patients with significant astigmatism and allows for improved vision at one specific focusing distance. You may need bifocals or reading glasses following the procedure for near vision.

Presbyopia Lens Options
After age 40, people lose their ability to see well at close distances due to the normal aging process of the eye. Most people turn to reading glasses to help them with activities such as reading, applying make-up and working with small objects.

Accommodative Lenses are designed to help solve the problems of presbyopia. The lens is placed in the eye to give the best distance vision possible. When the patient looks at a near object the lens moves forward in the eye to focus on that object. When the patient looks off in the distance again the lens moves back to focus at the distance. This is an excellent lens for distance and intermediate vision, such as computer. It also works fairly well at near for reading.

Multifocal Lenses have concentric rings on them that take the incoming light and split it between distance and near as a means of helping to correct presbyopia. This gives very good distance and reading vision. The best reading is with good lighting. The intermediate vision is good, but not quite as sharp as the near and distance.

Blended Vision is another means of addressing presbyopia. It can be done with the toric lens for patients with significant astigmatism. For those patients without astigmatism it is performed utilizing a very thin lens, allowing for some movement within the eye. The lens is put in the dominant eye for very sharp distance vision. The non-dominant eye has the lens placed for intermediate distance. Due to the flexibility of this lens it allows for a blend of vision at all distances.

Our surgeons will recommend the optimal choices for each patient, based upon their individual needs. It is important to understand the lenses are designed to give the best functionality with the least dependency on glasses.

Advanced Technology Enhances Cataract and Lens Exchange Procedures

ORA – Optiwave Refractive Analysis
The team at Gordon-Weiss-Schanzlin Vision Institute offers some of the most advanced technologies to help patients achieve the best possible results after treatment. The new Optiwave Refractive Analysis system (ORA) can maximize the potential for vision improvement after cataract or Refractive Lens Exchange surgery. This effective technology allows our eye surgeons to customize vision treatments more precisely than ever before.

For patients who undergo cataract or Refractive Lens Exchange (RLE) surgery, ORA gives the surgeon the ability to verify proper selection of IOLs during the surgical procedure. With ORA’s intraoperative aberrometer, our surgeons can get a precise assessment of the IOL and how much vision improvement can be obtained from it without having to wait or make adjustments weeks after surgery.
ORA makes it possible to ensure you have the best possible vision improvement with your IOL, by allowing your surgeon to further improve accuracy and optimize results.

Refractive Lens Exchange
For patients who do not have cataracts or lens changes causing significantly reduced vision, and have been told they are not a candidate for LASIK, a procedure called Refractive Lens Exchange (RLE) may be an excellent alternative. RLE replaces the natural crystalline lens in the eye with an intraocular lens. The procedure is designed to reduce or eliminate dependency on glasses or contact lenses. Vision correction procedures such as LASIK correct vision by changing the shape of the cornea. RLE, on the other hand, does not change the shape of the cornea, but rather changes the lens in the eye. This procedure is very similar to cataract surgery. Our experienced surgeons at Gordon-Weiss-Schanzlin Vision Institute offer a number of RLE treatment options that can help you meet your needs.

These techniques include monovision, blended vision, astigmatism correcting implants, accommodating implants, and multifocal implants that can be tailored to your individual needs. All options of implant types are available at our practice. The surgeon will discuss your options in depth to determine which technique is best suited for you.

Our Vision For Excellence
We realize there are endless options for your eye care. We work hard to set ourselves apart with the most innovative techniques, experienced physicians and highest standards. We feel your vision is worth it. Here are some important reasons you should trust your eyes to us.

- Our eye surgeons are recognized worldwide for their clinical expertise in the treatment of Cataracts, Laser Eye Surgery and other Vision Correction procedures. They are frequent lecturers for the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and medical consultants for leading ophthalmic corporations. Refractive surgeons from around the world visit our practice to learn advanced techniques.

- We were the first to offer Laser Refractive Cataract Surgery in San Diego. Our surgeons combine their experience and skills performing traditional cataract surgery with the advanced Femtosecond Laser technology to give exceptional results.

- Dr. Schanzlin is the co-inventor on the patent for use of ultrashort pulse laser cataract surgery, providing greater accuracy with advanced lens implant procedures.

- More than 2,000 physicians, optometrists and other medical professionals, along with their family members, have placed their confidence in our surgeons to perform their vision correction procedures.
Dr. Michael Gordon

Dr. Michael Gordon is a leading expert in refractive surgery. For over two decades, he has been involved in every aspect of the laser vision correction industry, as a surgeon, researcher and educator. Dr. Gordon has performed thousands of procedures and is among the most experienced refractive surgeons in the world. Together with Dr. Jack Weiss, he introduced Presbyopic Multi-Focal LASIK, (the first laser vision correction procedure to treat both near and distance vision) to the United States.

Dr. Gordon is recognized worldwide as a pioneer in the field of refractive surgery. He has taught and lectured throughout the world and is the only surgeon in the U.S. to have been involved in all phases of the clinical investigation for the Summit laser. He has authored many articles, written chapters for three textbooks on refractive surgery and recently co-authored a book on Wavefront technology.

Dr. Gordon’s clinical interests lie in leading the way for the future of laser vision correction through his continued commitment to develop the most advanced techniques and technology available.

Our staff and surgeons employ rigid controls on clinical protocols and operating procedures. Each detail is verified and rechecked at every step of your care.

Through our ongoing participation in clinical research and FDA Clinical Trials, our goal is to provide you with the latest technology and procedures for the best possible outcome. We were the original investigator in San Diego for the VISX, Summit and Allegretto Lasers.

Whether you are seeking Cataract Surgery, Laser Eye Surgery, or Lens Implants in San Diego, we can make your procedure affordable – as little as $5 a day. We accept a variety of payment options and offer interest-free payment plans so you can experience a world of clearer, more natural vision.

Find beauty in places you never thought to look.
Dr. David Schanzlin

David J. Schanzlin, MD is truly world-renowned as both an educator and an innovator in his field. Dr. Schanzlin was co-inventor on the patent for use of ultrashort pulse laser cataract surgery, helping bring this new technology to market. In addition he served as the world-wide lead investigator during the 13 years of development and clinical studies on Intacs®, and is considered the world authority on this procedure. He was elected by his peers, President of the International Society of Refractive Surgery (1998-2000) because of his distinguished reputation as a refractive surgeon. In 2003, Dr. Schanzlin received the Jose I. Barraquer Award for significant contributions in the field of refractive surgery and exemplifying scientific dedication.

Dr. Schanzlin served as Professor and Director of Keratorefractive Surgery at Shiley Eye Center, UCSD Department of Ophthalmology. Dr. Schanzlin's esteemed reputation and surgical skills are recognized worldwide. He has recently been named President of the San Diego Eye Bank.

Dr. Schanzlin received his medical degree from the University of Chicago and completed two fellowships in Cornea and External Diseases at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of California at San Francisco.

Dr. Jack Weiss

Jack L. Weiss, M.D., F.A.C.S. is recognized for his expertise in refractive and cataract surgery. He is one of a select group of surgeons in the world performing the latest innovative laser vision correction techniques. He has led the San Diego community as Chief of Ophthalmology at Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group, Scripps Encinitas, Sharp Cabrillo and Sharp Memorial hospitals and has served as President of the San Diego Eye Bank.

Dr. Weiss is the recipient of prestigious awards for outstanding research from the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the University of Chicago. He has published and taught extensively. In addition, he co-produced a video in conjunction with the American Academy of Ophthalmology in order to train eye surgeons to perform safer anesthesia techniques for cataract surgery.

Dr. Weiss’ current practice consists of advanced cataract surgery and the latest refractive techniques, including laser and lens procedures to treat presbyopia. His current research endeavors include perfecting lens implant technology and further developing refractive treatments.

Savor the new day with renewed vision.
Your family eyecare doctor has a thorough understanding of your visual history and can, therefore, provide continuity of care for you following your vision correction procedure. The follow-up care includes post-operative visits to evaluate eye health and refraction at specific intervals.

Gordon-Weiss-Schanzlin Vision Institute surgeons will always be available to your doctor for consultation. If needed, you may return to your surgeon for enhancement surgery or other evaluation at anytime during the one year post-operative period at no charge. All post-operative reports from your family eye doctor will be forwarded to Gordon-Weiss-Schanzlin for review and monitoring of your progress.

We encourage you to discuss co-management with your primary eyecare doctor. If you have questions about vision correction co-management, please feel free to contact your Patient Care Coordinator. We look forward to working with your family eyecare specialist to provide the highest quality of care for your visual needs.

You can be confident when you choose the doctors that more than 2000 doctors have chosen to perform their vision correction surgery.

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Dr. David Geffen

David Geffen, O.D. received his Bachelor of Science in Biology from University of California, Los Angeles, and his Doctor of Optometry from University of California Berkeley School of Optometry. He was in private practice in La Jolla from 1982 to 1994 before joining Gordon-Weiss-Schanzlin Vision Institute, a group practice with Michael Gordon, M.D., Jack L. Weiss, M.D., F.A.C.S., and David Schanzlin, M.D.. Dr. Geffen is the Director of Co-Management Services, working with practices all over the United States who refer patients for vision correction surgery. The Co-Management Team works together with your primary eye care doctor to ensure quality patient care.

We Work Closely With Your Family Eye Doctor

The doctors at Gordon-Weiss-Schanzlin Vision Institute appreciate the important and long-standing relationship you have with your family eye doctor. It is important to us that your doctor remains an integral part of this life-changing vision correction process. By managing your care in partnership with a doctor who knows your visual history better than anyone, you benefit from the best possible combination of professional resources for your surgery and post-operative care. We are pleased to work closely with leading eye care doctors who are experienced in the post-operative management of surgical vision correction.
let us bring your life into focus

For more information about our advanced procedures and expertise, call 858-455-6800 or visit www.gwsvision.com

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