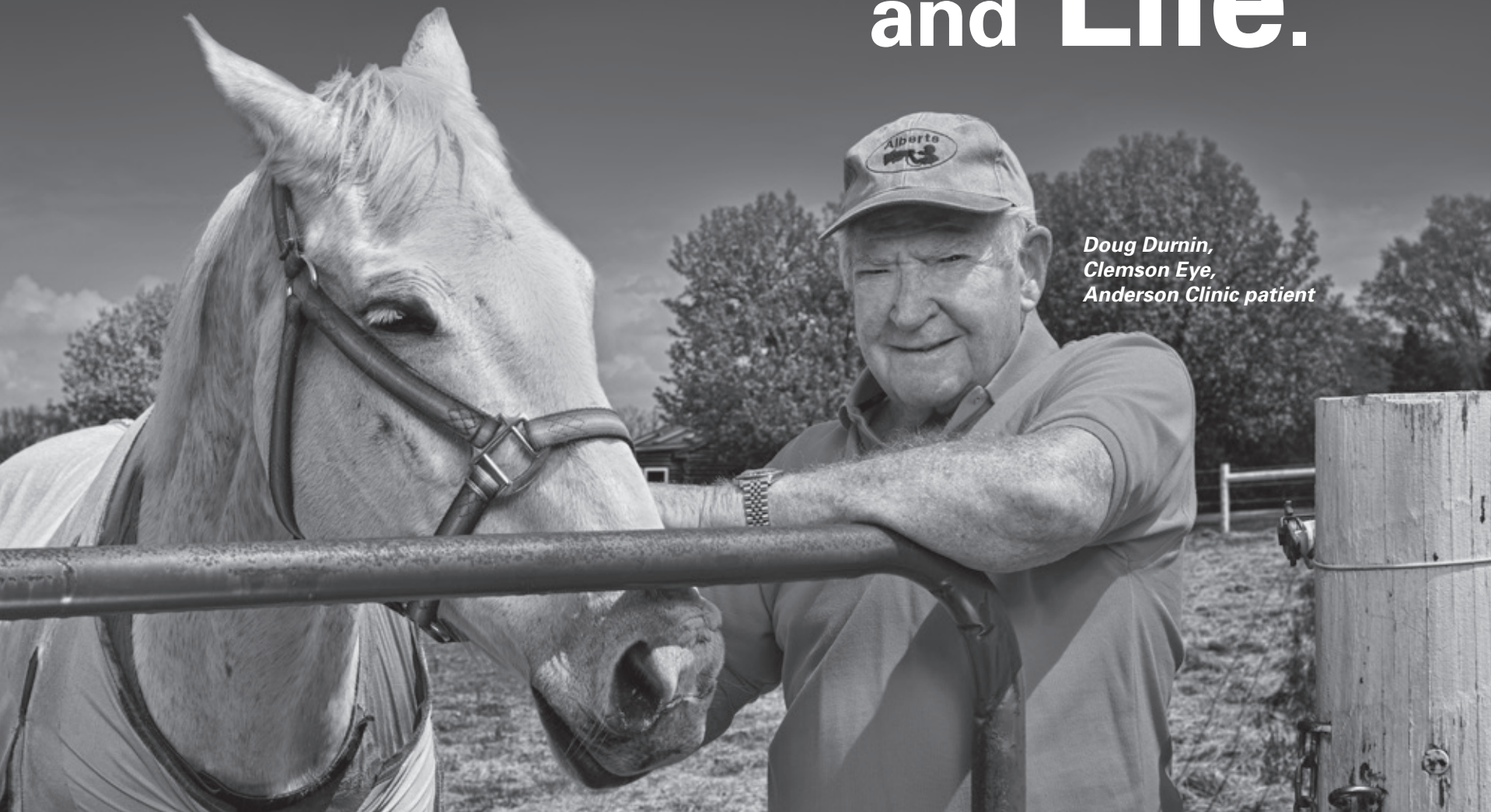


# “Laser Cataract Surgery changed *my vision* – and **Life.**”



Doug Durnin,  
Clemson Eye,  
Anderson Clinic patient

## June is Cataract Awareness Month

**With the recent introduction of lasers to cataract surgery, people with a cataract can now have their cloudy lens replaced and their astigmatism corrected during the same, revolutionary procedure.**

A new FDA-approved laser lets eye doctors treat a cataract patient’s astigmatism during their cataract surgery. Laser cataract surgery is a huge advancement. Many patients in their 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s or 90s not only have a new clear lens, but are free of glasses – or much less dependent on them – after their laser cataract surgery.

### What is a Cataract?

Currently more than 24 million Americans have cataracts. They are the leading cause of blindness worldwide<sup>1</sup> and many people don’t treat their cataract due to fear of eye surgery.

A cataract is a clouding of your eye’s natural lens. Cataracts slowly develop over time as the proteins in the lens start to clump and obscure vision. As the cataract grows, it blocks light causing blurry and dull vision. Typically, cataracts start to develop by age 60, but one in six people over age 40 are affected by cataracts.<sup>2</sup>

Because they generally do not cause pain, redness or tears, people often don’t even recognize they are developing a cataract. Here are the signs to be aware of:

- Blurred vision, double vision, ghost images, or you sense a “film” over your eyes.
- Lights seem too dim to see close-up, or night driving is difficult.

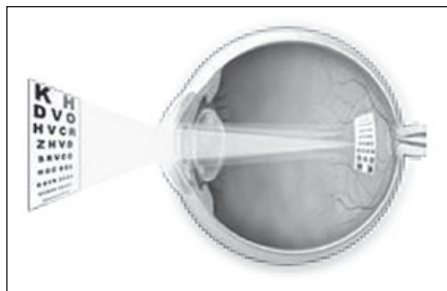
- New prescriptions for eyeglasses don’t improve your vision.

If you’re having difficulty going about your daily activities because of blurred vision, you may have a cataract and should book an eye exam with your eye doctor immediately. Cataracts are highly treatable, and cataract surgery is one of the most common and safest surgeries in the U.S. While you are at your appointment, ask your doctor if you are a candidate for laser cataract surgery.

### What is Astigmatism?

Astigmatism is a common defect in the cornea or lens that leads to blurry vision, trouble reading, squinting, eye strain, headaches and tired eyes. It is common and often present from birth. It interferes with us having perfect vision.

“Most of the focusing power of the eye happens along the front clear window surface, called the cornea, and through the lens. A normal cornea is rounded like a soccer ball. But a cornea with astigmatism is shaped more like a football,” explains Dr. Brian Johnson of Clemson Eye.



Vision with astigmatism.

The cause of astigmatism is unknown. While all degrees of astigmatism may be treated with eyeglasses or contact lenses, this

is a compromise because there is resulting distortion of your peripheral vision. If you require cataract surgery and have astigmatism, you can get superior visual quality by having your astigmatism corrected during your laser cataract surgery.

### Laser Cataract Surgery

Modern laser cataract surgery involves a tiny 2.2 mm stitch-less laser incision and the replacement of the diseased, cloudy lens with a clear lens implant. During the 15-minute procedure, patients are comfortably awake and experience clear vision during a prompt recovery.

“Until a few short years ago, cataract surgery required the use of a manual surgical blade to open the eye and capsule supporting the lens. This increased the chance of variable outcomes. Laser cataract surgery benefits patients because it causes less variability and tissue damage than the bladed method,” says Dr. Johnson.

### Better Clarity after Laser Cataract Surgery

Perfect vision is the goal in most cataract surgeries. Unfortunately, it is reached in only 55 per cent of traditional cataract surgeries.<sup>3</sup> This is due to the uncorrected astigmatism left behind and possible measurement prediction errors.

“My partners and I always put intense effort into our surgical planning with the best technology, testing and analysis to treat astigmatism,” says Dr. Joe Parisi, chief ophthalmologist and medical director at Clemson Eye.

“Now, the same laser used for laser vision correction can also

precisely treat astigmatism, make incisions and chop the cataract,” says Dr. Parisi.

With recent LenSx<sup>®</sup> laser FDA approval, surgeons now create incisions that are up to 10 times more precise than manual incisions.<sup>4</sup>

“The laser is customized for each unique eye and creates a superior relaxing incision inside the cornea, sparing the delicate nerves while fixing the astigmatism. We have definitely seen laser cataract surgery result in more precise incisions, less eye stress and better outcomes for our patients,” adds Dr. Parisi.

### Local Leaders in Eye Surgery

“A new era has begun for cataract patients,” says Dr. Don Glaser, also a doctor with Clemson Eye. “We were the first in the Upstate to offer laser cataract surgery and we have the most experience with it. Clemson Eye has five offices in Upstate South Carolina, including Spectrum Lasik, and we offer many visual solutions including laser vision correction, implantable contact lenses, lens exchanges and now laser cataract surgery.”

Drs. Johnson, Parisi and Glaser are American Board and LenSx<sup>®</sup> Certified Ophthalmologists. They have performed over 30,000 cataract and refractive surgeries. They were also first in the Upstate to implant advanced lenses (ReSTOR<sup>®</sup> / TORIC<sup>®</sup>) for their cataract patients. Now, their legacy of innovation continues with laser cataract surgery.

1. IOLK  
2. NEI.nhl.gov Vision Problems in the U.S.: Prevalence of Adult Vision Impairment and Age-Related Eye Disease in America. Prevent Blindness America and the National Eye Institute, 2008  
3. Aiming for emmetropia after cataract surgery: Swedish National Cataract Register study. Behndig A, Morstan P, Stenqvist U, Kugelberg M, Zetterstrom C, Lundstrom M  
4. Nagy Z, Takacs A, Fikson T, Sarayba M. Initial clinical evaluation of an intracocular femtosecond laser in cataract surgery. J Refract Surg. 2009;25(12):1053-1060



Left to right: Dr. Glaser, Dr. Parisi and Dr. Johnson.

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