

Dr. Jason Gorscak Specializes In Advanced Eye Care Procedures

Story by Lauren Miró ■ Photo by Abner Pedraza

Protecting, maintaining and restoring vision, Dr. Jason Gorscak and the team of ophthalmologists at the Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute are committed to patient care.

Gorscak has been with the institute for four years, diagnosing and treating cataract conditions, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy, as well as providing comprehensive eye care. "I definitely enjoy what I do," he said.

Ophthalmologists are medical doctors who specialize in eye care. Unlike optometrists, they must attend medical school and complete a residency program. Many ophthalmologists perform advanced procedures such as eye surgery.

Gorscak is also the emergency eye doctor at Wellington Regional Medical Center. "Any eye emergency that walks through the door, they call me," he said. "It can be anything from infections to trauma. I treat them medically or do emergency surgery."

He also lectures at the hospital, providing valuable information for doctors to diagnose and treat eye injuries.

Gorscak became interested in eye care as a medical student at the University of Miami. "I volunteered to do work at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute," he said. "I got to see a lot of patients who were underprivileged and came to Miami for care. I saw a successful cataract surgery done on a patient who was legally blind when he walked in the door, and that moved me."

Cataracts are common in older people,

often dramatically reducing a person's vision. "It's part of the aging process of the eye," he said. "The lens of the eye becomes cloudy. It's a natural process, but can be accelerated by diabetes or certain medications."

Glasses can help, but sometimes surgery is needed. "We try to avoid surgery at all cost," Gorscak said. "The first thing we try to do is see if new glasses will help the patient see better. If it does not, we can have surgery and replace the lens of the eye that is cloudy with one that is clear."

With advancements in technology, it is now possible to craft a lens to the patient's needs. "It used to be that there was only one lens, and the patient would still have to get glasses," Gorscak explained. "Nowadays there is so much technology that they can make a lens tailored to each eye."

Gorscak also treats glaucoma, a disease of the eye that is likely to occur in aging patients or those with a family history of the disease. Hypertension, high blood pressure and diabetes can also be contributing factors. "When the pressure in the eye is too high, it causes damage to the nerves in the back of the eye," he said. "You can go blind from glaucoma. Once the damage is done, there is no cure. Treatment is really preventative."

Treatments include medication or eye drops, as well as laser therapy to prevent the issue from worsening. "The last line of defense is surgery," Gorscak said. "We can make a new drainage way inside the eye to help fluid escape easier. But 95 percent of patients don't need surgery if the issue is treated.

The key to protecting your vision, Gorscak said, is preventive care. "It's extremely important to do routine eye exams once a year," he said. "Most eye diseases are preventable, but if we catch it too late, we can't repair the damage."

With constantly improving technology, Gorscak said that the field of eye care is more advanced than ever before. "It's an exciting field," he said. "It continues to grow each and every month, whether it's a new medication or a new laser. We're able to better screen for and treat eye conditions."

Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute's Wellington location is at 1397 Medical Park Blvd., Suite 380, on the campus of Wellington Regional Medical Center. For more info., call (561) 792-1205 or visit www.fleyedocs.com. □

