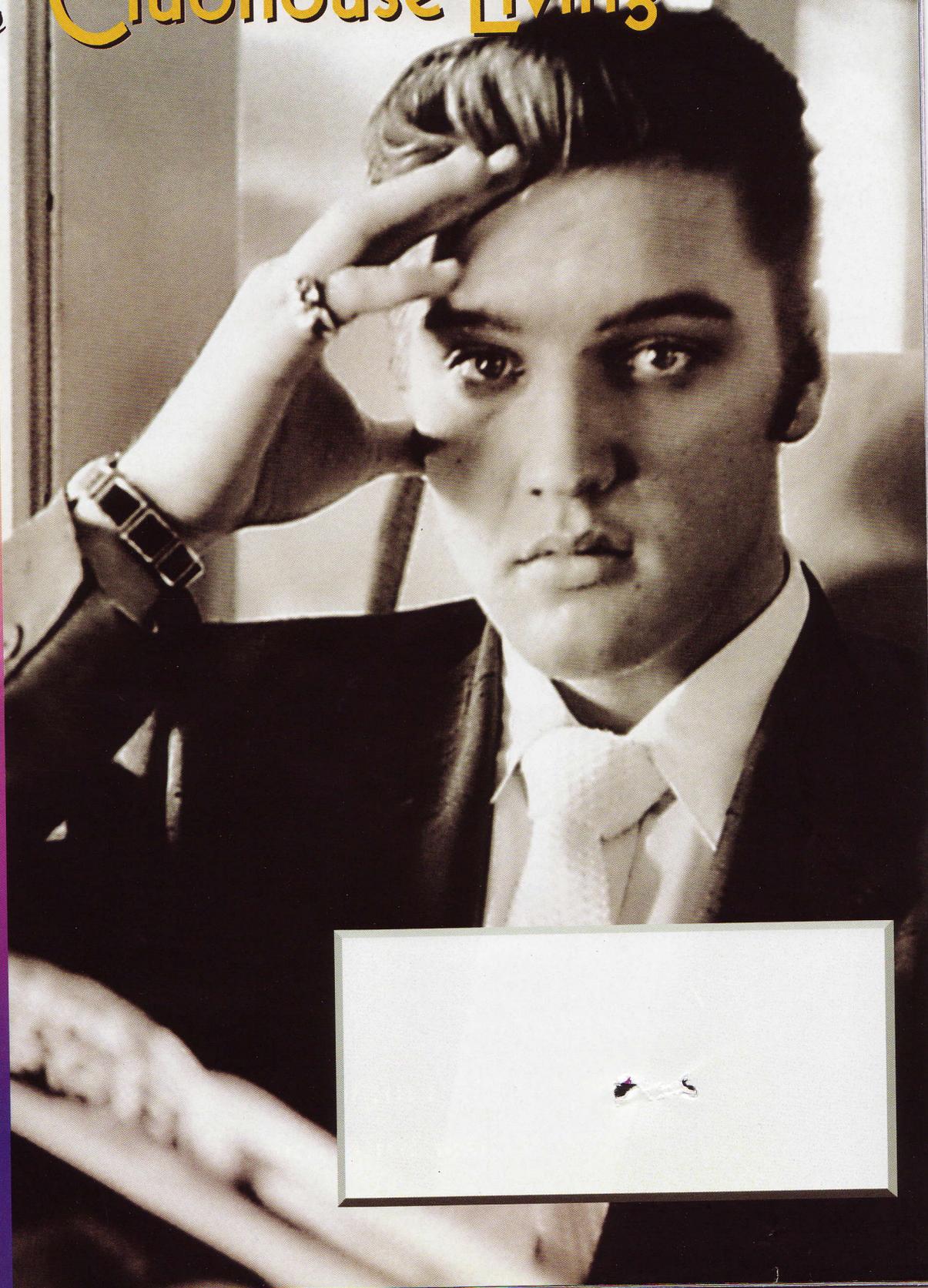


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A NEW MULTIFOCAL LENS TRANSPLANT HAS CATARACT PATIENTS SEEING CRISPLY AND CLEARLY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS

By Gwen Cohan

George Caspelich was slowly losing his sight. The active senior was suffering from cataracts that, if left untreated would most certainly have left him with limited vision or possible eventual blindness. Though very nervous about the idea of cataract surgery, Caspelich made an appointment to see Barry Schechter, M.D., Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute's Refractive cataract surgery, glaucoma, cornea and external disease specialist. A few visits, two short surgeries and a month later, Caspelich no longer wears glasses and these days he's anything but nervous.

"I'm ecstatic - I'm so happy," says Caspelich. "I was so nervous before the procedures, but my deteriorating sight was interfering with my daily routine, and I wanted that to change." Caspelich was nearsighted and said he was getting tired of prescription changes several times a year and of wearing glasses in general. "I had one pair of glasses for distance and one for near."

Dr. Schechter understands when a patient gets a case of nerves, but points out that lens implants have been in use for about 30 years to treat cataracts, and over 15 million cataract and lens implant procedures are now performed each year worldwide. "Of course there are risks associated with lens replacement and cataract surgery - there are risks with every surgical procedure," says Dr. Schechter, "and a good surgeon will go over those risks or complications prior to surgery."

When Dr. Schechter examined Caspelich, he knew right away the Tecnis lens would be the best option for him. Dr. Schechter explains that if patients are diagnosed with cataracts and are experiencing difficulty reading, seeing close



objects, seeing to drive - especially at night, changing glasses prescriptions and/or needing bifocals, then the odds are very good

that they would be candidates for Tecnis Lens replacement surgery. However, he adds, "there are multiple replacement lens products on the market as well and which one is best for each patient is a decision that should be made by the doctor and the patient."

At Florida Eye, cataract removal is generally performed as an outpatient procedure under local or topical anesthesiaright on the premises in the surgery center. The patient is fully awake, but is comfortable and feels no pain. Typically, the procedure usually takes 6-10 minutes.

Caspelich waited ten days between surgeries and says he was amazed at the results with each one. What he likes best now? "It's so much easier when I'm playing golf," says Caspelich. "I can look at the ball and it's right there. I used to have to use two pairs of glasses and switch off, for near and far, but now I don't and I love it."

As for Caspelich, would he do it again? "Absolutely, and I would know not to be nervous."

For more information about cataract surgery, many other procedures and national clinical trials, call the Florida Eye Microsurgical Institute Boyton Beach location at 561-737-5500.

