

Cataract Surgery at LCMH

LAWRENCEVILLE - Cataract surgery has moved to the next level at Indiana Eye Centers operated by W. Satar, MD including the Lawrenceville location at Chittick Optical, 1213 State Street.

Dr. Satar, an ophthalmologist and cataract surgeon, offers what is known as “dropleless cataract surgery.” As well as the traditional cataract outpatient surgery performed at Lawrence County Memorial Hospital.

Patients use eye drops for two weeks with traditional surgery, compared to the more modern dropleless technique where the medicine is placed in the eye during surgery.

“Placing medications in the eye at the conclusion of cataract surgery can eliminate the post-operative eye drops use in about 80 percent of patients,” he said. “I believe putting antibiotics and steroids directly into the eye is better and more effective than using eye drops, because it places the medicine in the best location in the eye, where it works more effectively.”

Traditional cataract surgery using drops postoperatively is still an excellent and acceptable procedure according to Dr. Satar. The dropleless cataract surgery though has two main advantages.

“The first is that the cost of the eye drops is eliminated,” he said. “These eye drops, depending upon the patient’s insurance and co pays can cost between \$100 and \$250. This is a lot of money for patients on limited income.

The second and perhaps an even bigger advantage is that eye drops are completely taken out of the picture, making it more convenient for patients ... one less thing to worry about.”

Satar stresses that patients can have the dropleless surgery close to home. There are currently two Indiana Eye Center locations in Illinois, and a third starting soon in Robinson at CMH consulting clinic along with five in Indiana.

“Lawrence County Memorial Hospital’s surgery center is a state of the art modern and new addition to the hospital” he said. “The equipment that is used for cataract surgery here is similar to the equipment that is used in Evansville, Terre Haute, Indianapolis and at the Mayo Clinic. Years ago, you had to go to bigger hospitals with better equipment (for cataract surgery), but that’s not true anymore.”

Satar averages eight to 10 procedures a month in Lawrenceville. On a single day this month, though, 16 were scheduled.

Dr. Satar has thousands of cataract surgery to his credit.

Satar emphasizes that cataract is not a disease.

“It’s just a part of maturing,” he said. “Like wrinkles of the skin or gray hair. The lens of the eye gets cloudy. Cataract symptoms include blurry distance and near vision, ghosting or double vision, haloes and glare particularly at night driving and people often think their glasses are dirty but cleaning does not help.

Early in the process, changing the prescription of one’s glasses will restore vision.”

“It reaches a point where changing the glasses does not help,” he said. “The only way to help with the cloudy lens “cataract” is to replace it. We remove the cloudy cataract lens. At that point the eye can no longer focus, so we put a new lens - an implant. It’s like a small contact lens that goes permanently inside the eye, and assuming the rest of the eye is in a normal state, the vision is restored”

Dr. Satar can be reached by calling Indiana Eye Center at Chittick Optical 618-943-5713 OR 800-252-1067