

Alcon's ReSTOR® lens, a flawed technology

Alcon's ReSTOR® lens is a flawed technology and should be removed from the market place. Don't believe all the hype.

The Restor lens is supposed to provide both near and far vision. Alcon claims that a majority of ReSTOR® patients (99 out of 100) enjoy good distance vision and 97 out of 100 enjoy good near vision; few (less than 5 out of 100) require reading glasses more than half of the time for "close-work." Reading glasses may be needed in low lighting for your best focus.

The problem is that to work the lens needs to be perfectly centered, less than 0.5mm, which is impossible in most cases.

When it became apparent that my vision was not working out as planned, it was thought that the problem was the position of the lens. The manufacturer requires that it be placed within 1.5 mm of center. Mine was positioned 1mm of center. An additional surgery was performed in an attempt to reposition the lens. Unfortunately too much time had elapsed and lens was partially attached to the eye. Only the vertical position was corrected with no improvement in vision. If you decide on the ReSTOR® lens make sure that it can be perfectly centered within 0.5 mm of center. If not the results can be catastrophic and as in my case with vision less than what I had before the operation.

One other issue which is probably the major cause of failure of the lens, it is easily damaged. After a year of complaining I was sent to the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA. There it was determined that the lens was damaged probably when the lens was placed in the insertion tool. The doctor there told me that it is a very delicate operation of putting the lens in the tool without damaging the lens.

After spending \$3,700 and eleven months for the installation of the ReSTOR® lens I have ended up with less capability then if I had installed a mono-focal lens.

If freedom from glasses is your desired outcome, the Alcon ACRYSOF® ReSTOR® IOL may not be your best choice.

One other point to consider before you choice one of these state of the art lenses, the lens will not correct for astigmatism requiring you to undergo additional laser surgery. The latest laser technology is called Lasik with a recovery period of about a month. Unfortunately after cataract surgery the recommended procedure is PRK which has a three month recovery cycle.

One side effect of the laser technology is the potential of disrupting your tear and oil ducts requiring you to use eye drops forever to overcome dry eye. What this means is

that the vision in the eye is always changing. The bottom line of this is that your natural lens is the best you will have. If you will need cataract surgery wait until you cannot pass your driver's test (20/40) and then go with the mono-focal lens. This is the most cost effective and least evasive approach. The only down side is that you will need glasses for reading.

One other point, once the Restore lens is implanted and attached to the eye, removing it is a major risk with the possibility of losing your sight. It should only be attempted with a very skilled surgeon.

If you must go with a state of the art lens make sure the surgeon is experienced in installing that lens with a high degree of success.