New BostonSight Videos

Do you ever struggle to explain BostonSight PROSE treatment to someone you have just met, or even one of your doctors? You want to talk about the incredible prosthetic devices that have transformed your very existence and restored your quality of life, but you just don’t know where to start? We have a resource for you!

Visit our YouTube channel to view the video series that we launched last month. There, you can view and share our Introduction to BostonSight PROSE Treatment video, featuring BostonSight Medical Director Deborah S. Jacobs.

Other available video resources include BostonSight PROSE treatment from the perspective of an oncologist, an ophthalmologist, and an optometrist.

We also recently posted BostonSight SCLERAL Lenses: Beyond the Fit. This video introduces our new data driven scleral lens product. It also talks about Beyond the Fit®, our three part program designed to increase efficiency and make BostonSight SCLERAL lenses a valuable tool for optometrists and specialty lens fitters nationwide.

We hope that you find these videos interesting and informative. Please share them!

Best wishes,

The PROSE Eye View Editorial Team
Lisa Berlin - a donor’s story

BostonSight PROSE patient Lisa Berlin (pictured at right) considers herself to be very fortunate. From the age of 19 she wore glasses, but her vision could not be corrected to 20/20 and was not clear. Doctors were not able to give her a reason for her poor vision.

Finally, at age 32, she saw Houston, TX ophthalmologist, Joel H. Goffman, MD, who told her that she had keratoconus and would not be able to have her vision properly corrected with glasses. Lisa started by wearing rigid gas permeable (RPG) lenses in, but her corneas were very steep and the lenses would just pop out; they also caused abrasions, which led to pain and scarring. Her next step was wearing RGPs and soft contact lenses together; this helped with comfort, but eventually too became impossible.

As time went on, Lisa began to suffer with eye pain from the recurrent erosion of her epithelium, and with poor vision. Next she tried phototherapeutic keratectomy (PTK). She endured the surgery, which uses a laser to remove tissue from the cornea, three separate times - in 1996, 2000 and 2003 - to get rid of scarring. Lisa continued to wear soft lenses for the next few years, but eventually the damage to her the epithelium (which acts as a barrier to protect the cornea) became too extensive. The soft lenses were just not steep enough.

In 2005, she was diagnosed with Sarcoidosis, an autoimmune disease that decreased tear production in her eyes and led to even more painful eyes. She investigated the possibility of a cornea transplant, but, in light of the Sarcoidosis, none of the doctors that she met with felt that a transplant was a good treatment option.

Finally, in the summer of 2009, she met with Marshall Bowes Hamill, MD, an ophthalmologist at the Alkek Eye Center Houston. Dr. Hamill suggested BostonSight PROSE treatment, which was newly available at Alkek. Shortly thereafter, Lisa and her husband moved to San Diego, but her dry eye continued causing her a lot of pain, and affected her ability to drive.

BostonSight PROSE patient Lisa and family
In December 2009, Lisa returned to Texas and completed BostonSight PROSE treatment on her right eye. And what a difference! Lisa said, “My license was about to expire and I was not going to be able to drive. After getting my device, I was able to get my driver’s license renewed. It changed my life.” The PROSE device gave Lisa vision, comfort, and relief from the pain of dry eyes and the scarring!

Since they had relocated to San Diego, Lisa transferred her care to Gloria Chiu, OD, FAAO, at the PROSE clinic at USC Roski Eye Institute. In 2012, Lisa completed PROSE treatment on her left eye. It provided her with additional clarity of vision and even more independence. Since 2012, Lisa’s entire world has changed - she can now drive, see detail, read on her electronic device, and has even seen whales in Hawaii! BostonSight PROSE treatment has been a true miracle for her.

Lisa and her husband, Jay, make charitable giving a priority for their family. They consider themselves fortunate to be able to support the organizations that have made a real and tangible impact on their lives. “We discuss as a family what organizations are important to us and we support them.” Being a BostonSight donor is important to Lisa, because, “I know the different that PROSE made in my life. I want to fund patients who can’t afford treatment because their whole life will be different. That is the best reason to pay it forward.”
FAQ about BostonSight SCLERAL lenses

We have had a few questions about the newly launched BostonSight SCLERAL lenses. You can learn more at www.bostonsightscleral.org; and we have also answered a few frequently asked questions below.

Q: How are BostonSight SCLERAL lenses different from BostonSight PROSE treatment?

A: BostonSight PROSE is a comprehensive medical treatment model to restore visual function to patients with complex corneal disease. BostonSight SCLERAL is our new data-driven product delivering doctors and patients unparalleled scleral lens design. While BostonSight SCLERAL lenses can help many patients, the diameter offerings (18.0, 18.5, and 19.0 millimeter designs available) and customization capabilities are limited in comparison to PROSE treatment. If your doctor referred you for PROSE, there’s a reason for it; only they can tell you if you may be able to use BostonSight SCLERAL.

Q: Where can I get BostonSight SCLERAL?

A: BostonSight SCLERAL is available from optometrists and specialty lens fitters across the country. As of today, SCLERAL is available in more than 75 locations in 25 states and Puerto Rico, with more being added each week. Visit our website - www.bostonsightscleral.org - and click the blue button in the upper right hand corner labeled “Where to get BostonSight SCLERAL” to search by zip code.

There are NO start-up costs associated with becoming a BostonSight SCLERAL practitioner, and we offer free online training. Any optometrist or specialty lens fitter with the appropriate professional licensing can sign up to offer BostonSight SCLERAL lenses, so if there is not one near you yet, ask your eye doctor today about signing up.

Please note that BostonSight SCLERAL lenses will NOT be offered at our Needham, MA headquarters, as our clinical staff there will continue to focus on providing BostonSight PROSE treatment.

Q: How much will BostonSight SCLERAL lenses cost me?

A: The cost of any scleral lens fitting is made up of several different factors, including materials costs, and fitting and professional fees which are set by the practitioner. Therefore, the amount that you are charged will vary and is not determined by BostonSight.
BMT Infonet Symposium

Earlier this month, BostonSight was proud to sponsor the 8th National Celebrating a Second Chance at Life Survivorship Symposium. Presented by BMT Infonet.org, this symposium is intended to help cancer survivors “learn how to manage the joys and challenges of surviving a transplant.”

This year’s symposium was held in Raleigh, NC; organizers change the location each year to be able to serve people across the country.

Previous symposia were held in California, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, Texas, and Massachusetts; the 2018 symposium will be in Denver, CO.

Approximately 40 people attended a presentation on ocular graft versus host disease (GvHD) given by Stella Kim, MD, of the Robert Cizik Eye Clinic in Houston. Dr. Kim’s talk, which covered treatment options including BostonSight PROSE treatment, was well received. The audience took advantage of the question and answer period to ask Dr. Kim about various topics related to GvHD of the eye.

The talk, including the Q&A, should be available online in the coming months. Send an email to help@bmtinfonet.org to be added to their email list and receive notice when recordings/videos are ready for viewing.

BostonSight sponsors ANAwareness Week

BostonSight was pleased to be a sponsor of the 5th annual ANAwareness Week (May 7-13). The Acoustic Neuroma Association (ANA) is a helpful resource for those looking for solutions for their AN-related health challenges – including solutions like BostonSight PROSE treatment, which is effective in treating the ophthalmic complications of acoustic neuroma. You can find Kelly’s story (Kelly is pictured at left) on our website, about life with AN and the positive impact of PROSE treatment.
Spring 2017 ophthalmology meetings

Earlier this month, BostonSight Medical Director Deborah S. Jacobs, MD, traveled to Los Angeles to attend the joint symposium of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) and the American Society of Ophthalmic Administrators (ASOA), which was held in Los Angeles. While there, she gave an invited talk entitled Neuropathic Dry Eye: Does this Exist? as part of Cornea Day.

BostonSight is pleased to collaborate with Hajirah Saeed, MD, of Massachusetts Eye and Ear (MEE), about their experience with BostonSight PROSE treatment for pediatric patients with Stevens Johnson syndrome. Yvonne Wang, MD, also of MEE, delivered a preliminary report on the subject at the 2017 meeting of the International Ocular Surface Society, which met earlier this month in Baltimore.

The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) annual meeting was also held in Baltimore. At the meeting, Christopher Hood, MD, of Kellogg Eye Center in Ann Arbor, MI, gave presentation entitled Prosthetic Replacement of the Ocular Surface Ecosystem (PROSE) for the Treatment of Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency that was included in the session on Corneal Epithelium in Health and Disease. The study included 31 eyes of 19 patients who were diagnosed with limbal stem cell deficiency (LSCD) and received BostonSight PROSE treatment. The study concluded that “PROSE improved visual acuity in patients with LSCD without an overall change in ocular involvement score, suggesting that the ocular surface may be stabilized with device wear.”
NEWS AND EVENTS

Transition on the BostonSight Board

Beverly Johnston and Barbara McNeil, MD, recently retired from the BostonSight Board of Directors. We thank them both for their years of service and dedication to BostonSight and its mission, and wish them all the best.

Several new employees to welcome

We recently welcomed two new members of the BostonSight staff. Kerri Cruz is our new ophthalmic technician. She comes to us from Hopkinton Vision Center, where she worked for almost seven years assisting optometrists. Patricia Dumas, our Medical Scheduling Coordinator, has more than twenty years of experience supporting a medical office; her most recent position was at Mass Eye and Ear. Please join us in welcoming Kerri and Patricia!