FAQ – New to BostonSight® PROSE

About BostonSight PROSE Treatment

Q. Is there medical research on the effectiveness of BostonSight PROSE treatment?

A. The prosthetic devices used in BostonSight PROSE have been approved by the FDA since 1994 for the treatment of ectasia and ocular surface disease (including dry eye). We have over 40 peer-reviewed research papers, publications and talks documenting the impact of PROSE, including a 2009 study published in the American Journal of Ophthalmology that determined that BostonSight PROSE "improved visual acuity and visual functioning in patients with corneal ectasia, irregular astigmatism, and ocular surface disease..." See www.bostonsight.org/research for a complete list.

Q. What are the steps in the BostonSight PROSE treatment process?

A. The steps are:

1. Referral from your primary eye care provider, medical doctor or cornea specialist
2. Initial medical review by PROSE doctors
3. 2-3 hour consultation to assess candidacy; your PROSE treatment team will then work with you to identify treatment goals and determine whether PROSE treatment is a good option for you.
4. Determination of insurance coverage and potential eligibility for financial assistance (2 - 6 weeks)
5. PROSE treatment (4 - 12 day-long visits)
6. Periodic follow up visits as required by your PROSE provider, primary eye care professional or specialist
7. Annual evaluation by your PROSE provider

Patients continue to be followed by their primary eye care provider during treatment and after, and ongoing care is coordinated with primary providers and the PROSE treatment team as required.
Q. How long does BostonSight PROSE treatment take to complete and what is involved?

A. BostonSight PROSE takes approximately 4-12 full business days, and includes customizing multiple trial prosthetic devices, each step followed by a trial wearing session, in order to achieve the best customization possible. An optimal customization is critical not only for comfort and improved vision, but also necessary for the prosthetic device to successfully replace and/or support the healing of damaged ocular surface system functions. The final prosthetic device or set of prosthetic devices is unique to each patient’s eye shape, disease profile, and specific treatment goals.

These 4-12 days include typically at least three sessions for training in the care of your prosthetic devices, including handling, cleaning, storing, and application and removal, to ensure that every patient is comfortable and confident in their use. It is not unusual for a patient to require 5-10 training sessions, during the course of prosthetic device customizations. Patients that live nearby a PROSE provider may space out their visits during the treatment process, extending the time between initial consultation, the start of the customization process and completion of the customization process.

Q. Can I try the PROSE devices first without making a commitment? If so, will I be able to tell how much they will help me?

A. Yes. When patients come for an initial 2-3 hour consultation trial prosthetic devices will be placed on the eye(s) to determine potential improvement in vision and relief of symptoms. Before going through what can be an intensive customization process, our doctors will conduct a thorough exam and apply one or more trial prosthetic devices during the consultation. While some patients do experience significant symptom relief almost immediately, others get increasing benefit over time. Initially, the actual feel of the trial prosthetic devices varies from patient to patient and may be imperfect at best. Trial devices may not have your optical correction, but this can be simulated with trial glasses that will be close to the best vision that can be achieved. At that point your PROSE treatment team will work with you to determine whether PROSE treatment is the best choice for you.
Q. What about the part of the eye that is not covered by the device—will it still hurt?

A. PROSE devices are designed to rest on the relatively insensitive sclera, or white part of the eye; they do not touch the cornea. Each prosthetic device is custom designed and manufactured to provide optimal comfort, visual function and symptom relief for each patient’s specific needs. The size of the PROSE device and the amount of eye that remains exposed will vary from patient to patient.

Q. If I were wearing PROSE devices would I be able to work at a computer again?

A. PROSE treatment outcomes are dependent upon the individual patient. Some patients who were unable to use a computer for extended periods of time find this task is manageable after receiving PROSE. Others may benefit from additional aids such as lubricating drops, moisture chamber goggles, or computer glasses.

About the BostonSight Network

Q. When will there be a BostonSight Network Clinic near me?

A. We are continuing to seek new providers across the United States to expand access to BostonSight PROSE treatment. Please sign up for our e-bulletin, PROSE Eye View (www.bostonsight.org/ebulletin), to receive up to date information on new BostonSight Network openings.

Q. Does anyone other than the clinics listed on the BostonSight website offer BostonSight PROSE treatment or make BostonSight PROSE prosthetic devices?

A. No. All members of the BostonSight Network are listed on our website (www.bostonsight.org/providers) and in our literature. All BostonSight prosthetic devices are designed by PROSE providers using our proprietary software, made at the BostonSight Manufacturing Lab in Needham, MA, and shipped to providers across the US and internationally.
Q. Is there anywhere in Europe I can get BostonSight PROSE treatment?

A. Unfortunately there is no immediate plan to open a BostonSight Network Clinic in Europe.

Q. What is the difference between BostonSight Network Clinics?

A. The location in Massachusetts is the original location, and all of the prosthetic devices are manufactured on site. BostonSight PROSE treatment does not vary from location to location. Each clinic is staffed by a doctor who completed a nine-week BostonSight Clinical Fellowship and who participates in continuing education about PROSE. Network clinics were established to increase access to PROSE treatment across the country. Each clinic is independently operated, managing scheduling and insurance and providing ongoing care. We encourage you to choose the location that is most convenient for you.

Q. Can I go through the initial PROSE treatment at BostonSight and then have follow-up care at a BostonSight Network Clinic closer to home?

A. Any follow-up care required within the first six months of your first fitting appointment will be provided by the treating location. All PROSE providers are independently operated and handle their own insurance and appointment scheduling so you will need to speak directly with the specific PROSE provider if you wish to transfer care after six months. At that time medical records can be transferred at your request.

About BostonSight® PROSE Candidacy

Q. I have a diagnosis of ______________ . Can your treatment help me?

A. BostonSight PROSE treatment is indicated for a wide variety of conditions associated with complex corneal disease. For a full list of indications, go to www.bostonsight.org/indications. To read more about common conditions such as Sjogren’s syndrome, dry eye syndrome, Stevens Johnson syndrome, chronic ocular GVHD, Keratoconus and others go to www.bostonsight.org/conditions.
Q. My doctor says I'm not a candidate for PROSE treatment. Do you think I might be anyway?

A. BostonSight PROSE treatment is indicated for a variety of complex corneal disorders and conditions; see our comprehensive indications list here: [www.bostonsight.org/indications](http://www.bostonsight.org/indications). The process for determining if PROSE treatment is the best choice for you includes submitting your latest eye exam notes or a referral from your primary eye doctor or specialist, and visiting a PROSE provider for an initial consultation. Your PROSE treatment team will then work with you to identify treatment goals and determine whether PROSE treatment is the best choice for you.

Q. If I have had Intacs or problems with Intacs can I still be a candidate for BostonSight PROSE treatment?

A. Many patients with Intacs can benefit from improved vision with PROSE treatment, particularly if their vision is not adequate post-surgery or if they are bothered by halos, glare or dry eye syndrome. PROSE devices do not touch the cornea so erosion or inflammation around the Intacs is unlikely.

Q. Can I still wear BostonSight PROSE devices if I have eye allergies?

A. Patients with allergies typically have more eye itching and mucus than other patients. Allergies often interfere with contact lens tolerance. Allergies are not a reason to avoid PROSE treatment, as our protocol for device care avoids agents that trigger allergy and a PROSE device functions differently than a contact lens. Because allergy often accompanies the conditions for which PROSE treatment is indicated, it is not unusual for patients to require concurrent treatment of ocular allergies while undertaking PROSE treatment.

Q. I have ocular rosacea. Am I a candidate for BostonSight PROSE?

A. Successful long-term treatment of ocular rosacea is likely to require a combination of things – topical lubricants, treatment of the eyelids, or systemic drugs such as doxycycline. If corneal signs and symptoms remain despite other treatments, then PROSE treatment may be helpful.
Q. Are patients with dryness due to thyroid eye disease candidates for PROSE treatment?

A. In many cases, yes, it can be helpful. The best approach is to be evaluated by both a BostonSight PROSE specialist and an ophthalmologist who specializes in thyroid related eye issues to maximize treatment outcomes.

About BostonSight, Needham MA

Q. How do I schedule a consultation at your Needham, MA location?

A. To learn more or set up a consultation at BostonSight, Needham, MA, contact our New Patient Affairs Coordinator at 781-726-7501 or visit www.bostonsight.org/contact to send an email. To schedule a consultation at one of the other BostonSight PROSE providers, please visit www.bostonsight.org/providers.

Q. How far ahead do I have to schedule a visit?

A. Most appointments can be scheduled within 4-6 weeks. Urgent care is accommodated sooner. We are able to schedule several months ahead of time when patients’ travel needs require such arrangements. BostonSight PROSE providers are independently operated. Please contact each PROSE provider individually for specific information and questions regarding scheduling.

About Costs and Insurance

Q. Does insurance cover BostonSight PROSE treatment?

A. Almost 80% of the patients treated at our Needham, MA location are covered in part or in full for PROSE treatment through their insurance providers and/or financial assistance. Our staff work closely with each patient and his/her insurance provider to obtain insurance reimbursement whenever possible and connect patients with additional lodging, meals and transportation support to make the treatment process as affordable and convenient as possible. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.

BostonSight Network locations are independently operated. Please contact them individually for specific information and questions regarding insurance and financial assistance.
Q. How long does it take to get insurance approval?

A. For our Needham, MA patients, typically the insurance prior-authorization process takes 2-6 weeks. In certain cases the approval process is completed faster and in other cases it may take longer. This is dependent upon the particulars of an individual case, how quickly necessary information can be gathered, and forwarded, and the specific procedures and policies of individual payors and insurance companies. BostonSight Network locations are independently operated. Please contact each clinic individually for specific information and questions regarding insurance.

Q. Does Canadian health insurance cover BostonSight PROSE treatment?

A. Canada has a publically-funded health insurance system that is individually governed by the provinces. Since BostonSight PROSE treatment is not currently available in Canada, provincial health insurance carriers will consider coverage. They have covered the initial consultation and more than half of BostonSight PROSE treatment costs for more than 90% of the PROSE patients treated at our Needham, MA location. Please note that BostonSight PROSE providers have no involvement in attaining pre-authorization for Canadian patients. The patient’s ophthalmologist or family doctor must submit a request to the appropriate province for out-of-country medical authorization.

Q. Why is BostonSight PROSE treatment so expensive compared with being fit with scleral lenses?

A. Ultimately we cannot speak to the affordability or effectiveness of scleral lenses fitted by other providers for a variety of conditions with various treatment goals. Like other medical treatments and services, the out-of-pocket direct and indirect costs for BostonSight PROSE treatment vary depending on a number of factors, including but not limited to: insurance, availability of financial assistance, treatment length/process and clinic location proximity. For each patient, these costs may be higher or lower than the costs associated with commercially available scleral lenses fit by other eye care providers.

Almost 80% of the patients treated at our Needham, MA location are covered in part or in full for PROSE treatment through their insurance providers and/or financial assistance. Our staff work closely with each patient and his/her insurance provider to obtain insurance reimbursement whenever possible and to provide additional lodging, meals and transportation support to make the treatment process as affordable and convenient as possible.
Q. How much are replacement prosthetic devices?

A. For pricing, please contact the BostonSight Network location where you received PROSE treatment. Some insurance companies cover part or the entire fee for a replacement device.

About BostonSight PROSE Devices

Q. What is the difference between BostonSight PROSE treatment and Boston Scleral Lenses, the Boston Ocular Surface Prosthesis (BOS-P) and the Boston Scleral Lens Prosthetic Device?

A. Boston Scleral Lenses, Boston Ocular Surface Prosthesis (BOS-P), and Boston Scleral Lens Prosthetic Devices are all former names for the prosthetic devices created during BostonSight PROSE treatment.

Q. How are BostonSight PROSE devices different from commercial scleral lenses like the Jupiter?

A. It sounds like you are trying to determine the best treatment option for yourself or for a specific patient – BostonSight PROSE treatment or scleral lenses fit by other providers - and why.

Ultimately we cannot speak to the affordability or effectiveness of scleral lenses fitted by other providers for a variety of conditions with various treatment goals.

More information:
The ability to successfully replace or support impaired ocular surface system functions, reduce symptoms and improve vision is determined by three interdependent factors:
• The individual patient's needs, functional goals and capabilities
• The specific underlying condition(s) being treated and desired treatment outcomes
• The success of the customization - which is determined by the expertise and skill of the treatment team interfaced with the effectiveness/flexibility of the technology/tools/materials required to design and manufacture the devices or lenses.
Therefore an assessment or comparison of effectiveness in reaching treatment goals can only be determined once a successful fit that has been achieved.

BostonSight PROSE treatment for complex corneal disease is provided by a highly trained medical team which includes a cornea specialist ophthalmologist, an optometrist who has completed an intensive nine-week BostonSight PROSE Clinical Fellowship, medical assistants, trainers, and prosthetic device manufacturing engineers and technicians. This team treatment approach allows BostonSight Network Clinics to customize FDA-approved prosthetic devices unique to each patient that replace and/or support damaged ocular surface system functions in the context of treating underlying complex corneal disease.

PROSE treatment teams will work with each patient, his/her primary eye care provider, and support system to identify treatment goals and determine together whether PROSE treatment is the best choice for them. We have more than 20 years of experience in treating a wide range of rare corneal diseases and injuries; the benefits of PROSE treatment have been reported in dozens of peer-reviewed medical journal publications dating back to 1990. For a full list of our publications please go to www.bostonsight.org/research.

Q. How do I learn how to apply and remove my PROSE devices?

A. The BostonSight PROSE treatment process includes extensive instruction and training in the care of your prosthetic devices, including handling, cleaning, storing, and application and removal, to ensure that every patient is comfortable and confident in their use. Most patients require at least three training sessions that are incorporated into the customization process; some patients require many more sessions. Often we train a family member or caregiver to assist in the beginning. Our staff is prepared to work with all patients, whatever their needs might be, to learn device application and removal. All BostonSight PROSE patients receive PROSE Treatment Guide: Prosthetic Device Use and Care.

Q. How long will it take to apply and remove my prosthetic devices each day?

A. It may take up to 20-30 minutes for application and 5-10 minutes for nightly removal and cleaning for patients who have just received their PROSE devices. While each patient is different, with practice the application process can take as little as 5 minutes. For patients that may require care-giver assistance or other accommodations, the application and removal process may take longer.
Q. Can my prescription be put in the prosthetic devices?

A. BostonSight PROSE treatment can usually correct refractive error. Some patients require spectacles to be worn over PROSE devices for certain activities.

Q. How big are the prosthetic devices? Will other people be able to see them?

A. No two devices are exactly alike. Prosthetic devices are uniquely customized to accommodate each patient’s specific eye shape and treatment needs. Devices can vary in circumference from approximately the size of a dime to a bit smaller than a quarter. The vault (the bowl shape and depth over the cornea) will also vary for each patient. Most patients report that other people do not seem to notice that they are wearing anything on their eye.