Healthy Eyes, Happy People

Stevens Johnson syndrome (SJS) is a devastating, potentially fatal disorder of the skin and mucous membranes; SJS can strike anyone, at any time. Surviving a bout of severe SJS can leave a person dealing with lifelong complications, including permanent skin damage, loss of finger and toe nails, loss of hair, and severe dryness of the eyes and other areas.

BostonSight PROSE treatment offers hope and restores quality of life to SJS survivors like Heidi. After completing PROSE treatment she said, “When I remove my PROSE devices, I cannot open my eyes at all and am in agony. Without the devices I wouldn’t be able to leave my bed. I wouldn’t be able to function – that would be my life. I am so grateful that BostonSight is only 45 minutes from my house; I feel blessed that I was able to find them.”

Paige was just 10 years old when she was stricken with Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis, a more severe variant of SJS. During the acute phase of the disease, Paige lost more than 80% of her skin. Her mom Renee had this to say: “PROSE treatment saved her. I can’t imagine her life without her PROSE devices. She used to sit in the corner, in the dark, with her eyes closed because she was in so much pain. I never want to see that again.”

SJS Care Week is an annual event, during which time BostonSight provides free lodging and travel assistance to help our patients with SJS come to Needham for PROSE treatment. “SJS can cause eye problems that persist years and decades after leaving the hospital. Patients with chronic SJS can develop scarring of the ocular surface, requiring modification of PROSE devices to assure continued visual function as the medical situation evolves,” stated BostonSight Medical Director Deborah S. Jacobs, MD.

Donate now to help young people and adults suffering with SJS. Make a tax deductible donation to the BostonSight Patient Networking and Outreach fund. Your gift – of any size – will go directly to support patients like Heidi and Paige and eliminate any barriers to treatment. Thank you.

Best wishes,

The PROSE Eye View Editorial Team
COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Two new PROSE videos on YouTube!

The BostonSight PROSE provider in Los Angeles, USC Roski Eye Institute, recently posted two videos about BostonSight PROSE patients to YouTube. **Nicole is a 24 year old** two-time cancer survivor being treated for severe dry eyes caused by ocular graft-versus-host disease (GvHD). **Rebecca developed GvHD** after receiving a blood transplant as treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Both have had their quality of life restored thanks to Dr. Gloria Chiu (pictured) and PROSE treatment.

When help is needed

**Friends of Man** is a charitable organization that helps people with a variety of needs, including medical equipment and procedures, hearing aids and eye glasses, and prescriptions and health insurance. Social workers, clergy, and other referring professionals submit an application on behalf of persons in need, and Friends of Man pays assistance directly to the vendor.

Recent blog posts

This month, our blog features information on the importance of eating white fruits and vegetables, such as potatoes and bananas, for good ocular health. We also congratulate **three BostonSight-affiliated medical students** who were admitted to Ophthalmology programs. Visit **Connected Visions** to read these posts and more!
The BostonSight PROSE clinic in Northern California is located at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). Since its establishment in 1912, the Department of Ophthalmology at UCSF has grown steadily and today includes the clinical facilities of three major hospitals. The department combines one of the nation's leading vision research programs with outstanding clinical care at the Beckman Vision Center.

The PROSE Clinic is directed by Karen Lee, OD, FAAO, FSLS (pictured), who joined the UCSF clinical staff full-time in 2015. She received her undergraduate degree in Physiological Sciences with a minor in East Asian Languages and Linguistics from UCLA. She completed her Doctorate in Optometry at the Indiana University School of Optometry in May of 2013.

Prior to coming to UCSF, Dr. Lee completed a Cornea and Contact Lens Residency at the Southern California College of Optometry, and then a BostonSight PROSE Clinical Fellowship. Dr. Lee is a fellow in the American Academy of Optometry and the Scleral Lens Education Society, and she was a recipient of the 2013 Award of Excellence in Contact Lens Patient Care from the American Optometric Foundation. Her humanitarian work includes several mission trips to Guanajuato, Mexico with Volunteer Optometric Services for Humanity.

“PROSE treatment has been an amazing tool, especially in an academic setting such as UCSF where we see the most complicated ocular conditions,” stated Dr. Lee. “It feels amazing to be able to help these patients who have heard "no" from so many other doctors who do not have the ability to offer PROSE treatment."

To inquire about BostonSight PROSE treatment at UCSF, please call 415-353-2177 or visit their website.
PROSE treatment for exposure keratopathy

Gloria Chiu, OD, FAAO, recently joined colleagues at University of Southern California on a scientific paper published in Eye & Contact Lens. Entitled Prosthetic Replacement of the Ocular Surface Ecosystem Scleral Lens Therapy for Exposure Keratopathy, the retrospective interventional case series looked at patients with exposure keratopathy who completed BostonSight PROSE treatment after having failed conventional therapies. For the participants, visual acuity and Ocular Surface Disease Index scores improved, while corneal staining values decreased. Overall, results suggest that PROSE treatment is effective in patients with exposure keratopathy who had failed conventional therapies, and it can serve as an alternative to lid surgery.

New members of our clinical hall staff

BostonSight recently welcomed two new members to our clinical hall staff. Our new Ophthalmic Assistant is Sweta Roongta (pictured). Sweta has worked as an ophthalmic technician in the United States for eight years, and prior to that, worked as an optometrist in India. She holds a first class Bachelor of Clinical Optometry from Bharati Vidyapeeth School of Optometry in Pune, Maharashtra, India.

With us part-time for the summer is Veronika Melnick. Veronika will be working at BostonSight for three days each week as a patient trainer, showing new PROSE patients the ins and outs of prosthetic device application, removal, and use.