



## Cataract surgery a breeze for retired optometrist

Dr. Dennis Fetch, a well-known optometrist in Broward County, had a lifetime of great vision and tremendous health. But just like anything else in our bodies, time catches up to us with our eyesight.

Because he had spent over 35 years of his life dealing with patient's eyes as a Fort Lauderdale optometrist, Dr. Fetch, who has been retired now for nine years, had a better understanding of what he was facing as he got older.

"I have always been blessed to have had very good vision," Dr. Fetch said. "But just like any of the patients that I had, when you reach a certain age, your eyes change." Like many of his patients who faced that decision when developing cataracts or any other vision problems that come along with age, Dr. Fetch started to develop problems in his right eye.

That is when he started to do his research on who he has sent his patients to in the past.

"I thought the best way to find out about a doctor who I would choose would be based on the experiences my own patients had," Dr. Fetch explained. "All the specialists that I send my patients to are good, but I was looking for one who was consistent across the board."

The reputation that Dr. Stanley Braverman has had over the past three plus decades in south Florida was the name that came up the most. The decision had been made.

"If you lived and worked down here as an optometrist for any length of time, Dr. Braverman was certainly a name that was well respected in the ophthalmic profession, Dr. Fetch pointed out. "His cutting edge approach has been recognized by so many, such as the University of Miami School of Medicine and the Anne Bates Leach Eye Hospital/Bascom Palmer Eye Institute."

While he is retired, Dr. Fetch still remains busy, traveling between his home in south Florida and Albany, Ga. But in between all he had going on, in June, he made the appointment to have his cataract surgery with Dr. Braverman.

Even though he knew much of what was going on - and being around the eyes much of his adult life - Dr. Fetch still listened to every word when Dr. Braverman and the staff had their initial consultation.

"The entire experience - from the beginning was tremendous," he said. "This was one of the best run offices I had ever seen. Every member of his staff was more informative than the next. Great experience!"

Like many of Dr. Braverman's patients who have had procedures done at Braverman Eye Center in Hallandale Beach, Dr. Fetch, who is an avid golfer with a busy schedule, was totally blown away by the overall experience.

"The craziest thing about the procedure is that with the cataract surgery, and the laser that was also performed to relieve pressure from Glaucoma, I am so pleased at the way everything has turned out in such a short time," Dr. Fetch explained. And the best news is that he has recovered 20/20 uncorrected vision because Dr. Braverman corrected his astigmatism!

### What Are Cataracts?

A cataract is formed when the natural lens of the eye, responsible for focusing light and producing sharp images, becomes cloudy and hardens, resulting in a loss of visual function. The lens of the

eye is clear at birth but is one of the first parts of the body to show the effects of aging. A cataract is painless and usually develops gradually over several months or years. The onset of a cataract in one or both eyes may cause decreased night vision, impaired depth perception, and increased color distortion.

Cataracts are the leading cause of vision loss among adults age 55 and older. In fact, poor vision from cataracts affects 60 percent of all adults over age 60. However, cataracts also can result from injury, heredity, or medications, so they can affect people of all ages.

Understanding that no two conditions or patients are the same, Dr. Braverman analyzes the patient's symptoms, performs a comprehensive eye exam, and may test for glare disability and contrast sensitivity before making a diagnosis. The final decision to proceed with the surgery belongs to the patient.

Your optometrist or Dr. Braverman may prescribe glasses, medication or surgery depending on your symptoms, complaints and age. Usually surgery will not be recommended until glasses no longer work to make you visually happy. In the case of clear lensectomy surgery, the patient cosmetically wants to get rid of their glasses, but they are out of the LASIK treatment range.

### Cataract Surgery: What To Expect

Thanks to new advancements, this is a great time to have cataract surgery.

Your eye is like a camera. It has photographic paper (the retina), and a camera lens. Two excellent options exist for cataract surgery. The choice is yours. Traditional Cataract Surgery is the removal of your cloudy natural camera lens, which is usually dissolved using high frequency ultrasound through a small (less than 3 millimeter) opening. If your eye qualifies, the second option, Laser Assisted Cataract Surgery can now be done using state of the art Femtosecond Laser technology to assist with parts of the cataract surgical procedure, including softening up the cloudy camera lens. This reduces the amount of high frequency ultrasound needed. Laser Assisted Cataract Surgery takes a delicate procedure and refines it even more, so that the surgical precision is unparalleled. The computer-guided accuracy of the laser compliments your doctor's skills with today's latest technology. An artificial man made lens is then placed inside the eye where the cloudy lens used to be.

There are several types of high quality premium vision lenses that can be used, giving you potentially better results than with a standard basic lens. After the surgery, eye drops are given to the patient to aid in the healing of the eye, which takes a few months, but the patient is able to return to normal activity almost immediately after surgery and usually sees well within just days. If the eye is otherwise healthy, cataract surgery is successful in more than 98% of patients and they enjoy improved vision after the procedure. Cataract surgery continues to improve. Recent developments include no-stitch surgery, topical anesthesia, surgical correction of astigmatism, new upgraded premium lens designs, Laser Assisted Cataract Surgery, and Dr. Braverman's newly trademarked LACE™ procedure. The LACE™ procedure, if you are deemed a candidate, can nearly always guarantee that the patient will need no glasses for distance



Dr. Dennis Fetch, a well-known optometrist in Broward County, left, and Dr. Stanley Braverman.



The Braverman Eye Center is located at: 1935 East Hallandale Beach Boulevard, Hallandale Beach, FL 33009. [www.bravermaneyecenter.com](http://www.bravermaneyecenter.com)

vision, and no glasses for distance or near vision if a multifocal lens implant is used. At the Braverman Eye Center, we are proud to offer the advanced AMO CATALYS® Precision Laser System, for unsurpassed Femtosecond Laser Assisted cataract surgery performance.

### About Dr. Stanley Braverman

Dr. Stanley Braverman is a Voluntary Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Miami School of Medicine and the Anne Bates Leach Eye Hospital/Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. He is also an Adjunct Associate Clinical Professor at the Nova Southeastern School of Optometry. In addition to treating patients, Dr. Braverman, a board certified ophthalmologist, has been a medical researcher, and is the inventor of several eye surgical instruments, and author of many articles for medical journals. Dr. Braverman's newly trademarked LACE™ procedure (Laser Assisted Cataract Extraction) provides the best possible cataract surgical results. He has lectured at professional meetings about upgraded lens implants, advanced cataract surgery and LASIK, both nationally and internationally. He has recently been recognized by Newsweek Magazine as one of the Fifteen Leaders in Laser Eye Surgery in 2011, and recently co-authored a book on Z-Lasik that is being distributed internationally. You can find it on Amazon.com.

An initial cataract or LASIK consultation can be scheduled by calling the Braverman Eye Center at: **[954] 458-2112 or [305] 374-8694**. For additional information please contact Regina Vasquez, Surgery Coordinator for cataract surgery, or Rosemary Hartford, LASIK Coordinator for LASIK surgery, or visit the Braverman Eye Center website at [www.bravermaneyecenter.com](http://www.bravermaneyecenter.com) where you can watch a video of cataract or LASIK surgery and learn more about all of the latest advances in cataract surgery and upgraded lens implants, as well as LASIK Surgery, including Near-Far Multifocal PresbyLASIK, for patients over 40 years old who require glasses for both distance and near vision.

In addition to Dr. Stanley Braverman, a Refractive Cataract and LASIK Laser Vision Correction surgeon, your other subspecialty eye care needs can also be evaluated and treated. On staff at the Braverman Eye Center are Rashid Taher MD FACS and Tirso Lara MD FACS, Vitreoretinal surgeons; Andre Sarraga MD FACS, Ophthalmic Plastic, Reconstructive and Cosmetic Surgeon; Aarup Kubal MD FACS, Complex Glaucoma Specialist; Jesse Pelletier MD, FACS, Corneal Surgeon; Eric Ciliberti MD, Neuro-Ophthalmologist; and Ryan Y. Hargreaves OD, Shalonda McCallum OD and Alyssa Keating OD. All sub-specialist surgeons at the Braverman Eye Center are Board Certified.