

S O U T H F L O R I D A ' S

Health & Wellness[®]

MAGAZINE

July 2022

North Palm Beach Edition - Monthly

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FREE



**NEW DRUG JUST APPROVED FOR
HAIR GROWTH SHOULD YOU TRY IT?**

**SKIN REJUVENATION
AT MULTIPLE LEVELS**

**DO YOU SUFFER FROM
HERNIATED OR BULGING DISCS?**

**TEETH THE SAME DAY:
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IS A POSSIBILITY**

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9 TIPS TO PREVENT ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

By Nasser Razack, MD, JD

Alzheimer's has a devastating effect that many people take for granted. Let's discuss nine ways to prevent the disease and promote better brain health.

1. Engage in brisk walking for at least 30 minutes five times a week. This can reduce Alzheimer's disease risk by 33%. Vigorous aerobic exercise performed three times weekly for at least 20 minutes can also bring it down to 50%. Quite simply, exercise delivers more oxygen and nutrients to your brain, helps repair damage, and removes toxins.

2. Partake in activities that are interactive and mind-engaging. These include playing challenging games such as chess or bridge. Other activities include learning a new instrument or a new language; you can also partake in a new practice such as yoga. These new and diverse activities allow your brain to grow by forming more neural connections. In a sense, all these are also exercise for the brain.

3. Avoid toxins. For example, midlife smoking can double the rate of dementia. Smoking is a fairly obvious toxin, but we are also constantly barraged by other harmful substances throughout our life without knowing it. Please visit Cosmeticsdatabase.com to find out what toxins may be affecting your health. You can check any product you currently use to determine their toxicity.

4. Engage in social activities. A recent Harvard study demonstrated individuals with at least five strong social ties (people they enjoy spending time with) had a 50% reduced rate of cognitive decline compared to those who were more isolated.

5. Have a purpose and life direction. Researchers at Rush University Medical Center demonstrated that people with the highest level of purpose and direction in life had a 2.4-fold reduced risk of developing dementia. So find your passion, pick a cause that is meaningful to you, and work on it regularly!

6. Relax and rejuvenate. There are different ways to do this including prayer, meditation, exploring nature, reading a book, visiting the spa, getting a massage, doing yoga and other forms of exercise. This is important because the opposite of relaxation is stress which can actually damage your brain.

7. Protect your head to prevent brain injury. Patients with head injuries have 2 to 4 times the rate of developing Alzheimer's disease. For most



people, the highest risk of head injury is while driving, so always wear your seatbelt and avoid texting. People who text behind the wheel increase their risks for accidents by as much as 23 times compared to those who don't. One study demonstrated this was equivalent to driving after having four alcoholic drinks. Head injury is also believed to result in increased inflammation, another factor associated with Alzheimer's disease. Recovery from stroke can also increase brain inflammation, with approximately 30% of stroke survivors unfortunately developing dementia.

8. Reduce inflammation. You can achieve this with a non-inflammatory eating plan such as the Mediterranean diet which favors 7 to 10 servings of fruits and vegetables daily. This diet also includes wild fish twice weekly, plus lots of nuts, almonds, walnuts, beans, and legumes. Additionally, there is a significant social component to this diet as advocates typically interact with each other while they dine.

Researchers also demonstrated that natural substances can reduce inflammation. Neurcumin® is an all-natural supplement which contains many natural agents uniquely formulated to synergistically fight inflammation.

9. Have a positive outlook. A positive mindset offers tremendous protection against Alzheimer's disease. In "The Nun Study", researchers demonstrated nuns who had the highest usage of positive words and emotions in their journals aged better and lived longer, healthier lives. Even more remarkable, these incredible women donated their bodies to science. When their brains were examined after death, the researchers found biomarkers typically associated with Alzheimer's disease (neurofibrillary tangles and beta-amyloid plaques). However, these nuns did not have Alzheimer's disease symptoms. It's as if they derived a neuro-protective effect by maintaining a positive outlook. Further, this is an extremely strong message that we have to reduce any negativity in our lives. Negativity is literally toxic, even deadly.

You can remember all of these preventative measures by simply recalling the acronym, "PREVENT AD".

P	Purpose and life direction
R	Relax and rejuvenate
E	Exercise daily
V	Very positive outlook
E	Engage in social interactions
N	No head injuries
T	Toxin avoidance
A	Activities that stimulate your mind
D	Diet (anti-inflammatory)

It also helps to partner with a prevention-oriented physician. Specifically, find a physician that understands the importance of exercise and nutrition in the prevention of Alzheimer's disease. Notice that this is the last item on the list because everyone must be proactive when it comes to healthcare. No one is more concerned with your health than you are. Partnering with a physician is great but you must be in control of your daily activities which, compounded over time, will either hurt you or help you.

To learn more about Neurcumin® and the prevention of inflammatory diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke and heart attacks, please visit Neurcumin.com. You may also call 727-289-7139 or email us at strokenerd@gmail.com for more information.

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About Nasser Razack, MD, JD

Dr. Razack currently practices as a neurointerventional surgeon in Naples, Florida. He dedicates a significant portion of his practice to educating in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of stroke. He completed his medical training at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Virginia.



New Drug Just Approved for HAIR GROWTH SHOULD YOU TRY IT?

by Alan J. Bauman, MD, ABHRS

A drug the FDA approved last month can be helpful for regrowing hair in people with a particular type of hair loss called *alopecia areata*. However, it comes with some concerning side effects that every patient should consider carefully.

For years I've been perfecting hair restoration therapies that I know to be safe and effective, which I'll detail below, but let's start by taking a closer look at Oluminant (baricitinib).

Oluminant is now FDA approved to treat severe alopecia areata. Alopecia areata is an autoimmune disease that causes the body to attack hair follicles. This typically results in hair loss that ranges from small coin-sized bald patches on the scalp, or other areas like the beard or eyelashes and eyebrows, to total "whole body" hair loss. This condition can occur in both men and women and affects about 300,000 people in the U.S.

However, the hair loss condition more people are familiar with is androgenic alopecia. This is often referred to as "male pattern baldness," – although women have it, too – and manifests in the hairline, upper region of the temples, extending toward the back over time. Oluminant isn't intended for this condition.

Oluminant was approved after being shown to result in enough hair growth to be deemed "adequate scalp coverage" in between 17 percent and 32 percent of patients (depending on dosage) taking part in two double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled clinical

trials. Some of the regrowth seen in the clinical trials were downright dramatic.

Though that sounds positive, frankly I'm alarmed about its long list of potentially severe side effects (and so is the FDA). Oluminant is in a class of popular drugs called JAK-inhibitors which have been previously approved for arthritis and ulcerative colitis. They work by reducing the activity of overactive immune systems. FDA Boxed Warnings for the JAK-inhibitors Xeljanz (tofacitinib), Rinvoq (upadacitinib), and Oluminant (baricitinib) include "serious heart-related events, cancer, blood clots and death." I'm also concerned about as-yet unidentified unintended consequences and risks from this long-term, immune modulation therapy.

At Bauman Medical, we're known for applying effective advanced holistic and regenerative medicine-based hair growth treatments aimed at reducing the standard risks and side effects seen with more traditional therapies. Here are a few (but certainly not all) of my favorites for both alopecia areata and androgenetic alopecia.

PRP (Platelet-Rich Plasma): PRP is a comfortable in-office procedure that takes about an hour with no recovery time, downtime, or significant risk. Derived from a small blood sample, platelets are separated from other components of the blood, concentrated, then painlessly applied into the scalp under local anesthesia where weak hair follicles exist.

Note that not all PRP is the same. Our PRP is painless, powerful, and can last a year or more from a single treatment. Bauman Medical has an excellent track record of success using PRP for mild alopecia areata [see photo] as well as androgenetic alopecia.

PDOgro™: Researched and developed right here at Bauman Medical, we were the first hair restoration clinic in the U.S. to use PDO threads to enhance

hair growth. PDO, or polydioxanone, is a synthetic absorbable FDA-cleared material. Used for decades in surgery, and more recently in aesthetic procedures to reverse the appearance of skin aging, PDO threads placed into the scalp have been shown to stimulate hair regrowth. Typically performed in combination with PRP in a no-downtime "lunch-break" procedure, the threads are comfortably applied into the scalp. They dissolve and are absorbed over time, safely stimulating collagen production, new blood vessel formation, and a release of powerful rejuvenating growth factors.

The PDOgro™ procedure may help prevent or reduce the need for future hair transplantation by stopping, slowing, or reversing hair loss.

100% non-chemical Low-Level Laser Therapy (aka red light therapy or photobiomodulation): Proper and consistent use of medical-grade low-level laser therapy has been scientifically proven to increase blood flow, accelerate healing, reduce inflammation, and promote hair regrowth.

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- **The Good Guys™:** This hair probiotic complex supports your gut's microbiome to optimize the digestive process, nutrient absorption, and maximize overall health and wellness. It supports a robust scalp and strengthens follicles for optimal hair growth.



Before and 4 months after PRP for Alopecia Areata by Dr. Alan Bauman



Before and after PDOgro™ by Dr. Alan Bauman

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- Hair loss can start as soon as puberty ends, depending on your hereditary sensitivity to DHT.
- Color quality, texture, length of growth cycles, balding patterns, the speed of balding -- all of those put together will determine how quickly you see loss occur, how quickly it progresses, and how long it will occur later in life.
- Because there are hundreds of genetic and external factors that influence hair loss, baldness can skip generations, skip siblings, etc.
- DNA tests (e.g. TrichoTest™) that we offer include a prediction of whether you're likely to experience hereditary hair loss and what treatments will work best for you based on your unique DNA.

About Dr. Alan J. Bauman



**Alan J. Bauman, MD, ABHRS, IAHRs
Hair Loss Expert**

Dr. Alan Bauman is a full-time board-certified hair restoration physician who has treated over 33,000 patients, has performed more than 10,000 hair transplant procedures and over 10,000 PRP's since starting his medical hair loss practice, Bauman Medical in 1997.

Dr. Bauman is one of approximately only 200 physicians worldwide to achieve the certification from the esteemed American Board of Hair Restoration Surgery (ABHRS). Dr. Bauman is known for pioneering numerous technologies in the field of hair restoration including minimally-invasive FUE Follicular Unit Extraction, VIPIFUE™, Low-Level Laser Therapy, PRP Platelet Rich Plasma, PDOgro™, eyelash Transplants and others.

Dr. Bauman was voted "#1 Top Hair Restoration Surgeon" in North America by Aesthetic Everything for the 6th consecutive year, "Top Hair Restoration Surgeon of the Decade", and received the 2022 "Lifetime Achievement Award in Hair Restoration". He was also recognized by Forbes as one of "10 CEOs Transforming Healthcare in America."



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SKIN REJUVENATION AT MULTIPLE LEVELS

HAVE YOU HEARD OF **HALO AND FOREVER YOUNG BBL TREATMENTS?**

These are two new technologies that are game changers for skin resurfacing and pigmentation. Having been in the non-surgical aesthetic space for 19 years, I am very pleased to have finally discovered 2 technologies that deliver results for very common skin problems we have tried to correct for years; fine lines, pore size, skin texture, broken capillaries and even melasma. The fraxel laser was revolutionary when it first became available years ago. For the first time, skin texture was addressed with minimal downtime. However, the Halo laser is the next generation technology for skin resurfacing. Technology keeps evolving and the Halo laser is truly unique. It is a “hybrid fractional laser” that delivers an ablative and non-ablative wavelength to the same area. What does that mean?

1

**NON-ABLATIVE
1470 MM WAVELENGTH**

This wavelength can be adjusted from 200-700 micron depth, the level in the epidermis and papillary dermis that needs to be targeted for hyperpigmentation such as sun spots and melasma, as well as texture and pore size.

2

ABLATIVE 2940 MM WAVELENGTH

2940 mm ER: Yag laser penetrates from 20-100 microns under the skin. It targets lines and wrinkles with significantly decreased downtime as opposed to other ablative lasers. Combining these 2 wavelengths results in ablative results, mainly improvement of wrinkles and lines with non-ablative downtime. I myself have tried it for melasma and was very impressed with the results.



In addition, combining Halo with Forever Young BBL further combats the signs of aging by correcting sun damage and broken capillaries. BBL stands for broad band light and is basically a much more advanced version of IPL that most people are familiar with. It targets the epidermis and dermis, stimulating changes in skin texture, acne scarring, skin tone, broken capillaries, as well as pigmentation. BBL reduces melasma and diminishes fine vessels that cause redness. It is a very effective treatment for rosacea. Both of these technologies, especially combined, gently treat the upper layers of the skin and take years off the neck, face, chest, hands and anywhere else where aging is visible.

In summary areas of improvement include:

1. Sun damage
2. Broken blood vessels
3. Fine Lines and Wrinkles
4. Scars including acne scarring
5. Large pores
6. Crepey Skin

To maintain radiant, glowing skin, a series of 3 BBL treatments 2 weeks apart combined with 1 Halo treatment at the time of the first BBL treatment yields the best results, but treatments are custom tailored according to the individual patient's needs.



Medical Director, Daniela Dadurian M.D.
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Daniela Dadurian, M.D. received her medical degree from the University of Miami School of Medicine. She is certified by the Board of Anti-Aging & Regenerative Medicine and the Board of Laser Surgery. Dr. Dadurian has also completed a fellowship in Stem Cell Therapy by the American Board of Anti-Aging Medicine. She is a member of the International Peptide Society, the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine and the Age Management Medicine Group. Dr. Dadurian is the medical director of several medical spa and wellness centers in palm beach county with locations in West Palm Beach and on the island of Palm Beach. She is a leading expert in anti-aging & aesthetic medicine. Her state of the art facilities offer an array of anti-aging, functional medicine, cosmetic and laser therapies.

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SPINAL DECOMPRESSION THEORY

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WHAT DOES A TREATMENT INVOLVE?

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IS IT A PAINFUL PROCESS?

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WHY SPINAL DECOMPRESSION THERAPY?

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Non surgical spinal decompression is a procedure delivered by a computerized medical device, which gently reduces the pressure on specifically targeted discs, releasing any pinched nerves and relieving chronic back and neck pain.

The gentle stretch and release protocols create a vacuum effect to encourage retraction and repositioning of any bulging or herniated disc material to its original position, giving the disc the opportunity to heal and rehydrate.

The surgical procedure, in comparison, is either a Microdiscectomy, which is the surgical removal of the disc material or a Laminectomy, which is the surgical removal of a portion of the vertebral bone.

Non Surgical Spinal Decompression has been used, for many years, to treat successfully treat a range of conditions:

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- Joint problems
- Painful sports injuries
- Degenerated discs
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About Accepting Death

By Ernest Morgan, from *Dealing Creatively with Death*

If we were to walk across the fields in summertime to some undisturbed spot and mark off a piece of ground say four feet square then examine this little area minutely, we would find an astonishing variety of life. There would be many species of plants; possibly a mouse's nest, and other small creatures. Then resorting to a microscope, we would observe an incredible host of microorganisms functioning in association with the larger life forms.

In that little square of ground we would have seen an interdependent community of life in which

birth and death were continuously taking place and in which diverse life forms were sheltering and nourishing one another. Written in the rocks beneath was a story of a similar process going back through eons of time.

Humankind is part of the ongoing community of nature, on a world scale, subject to the same cycle of birth and death which governs all other creatures and, like them, totally dependent on other life. Sometimes we tend to forget this. Birth and death are as natural for us as for the myriad of creatures in that little square of ground.



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Teeth the Same Day: Yes This Treatment is a Possibility

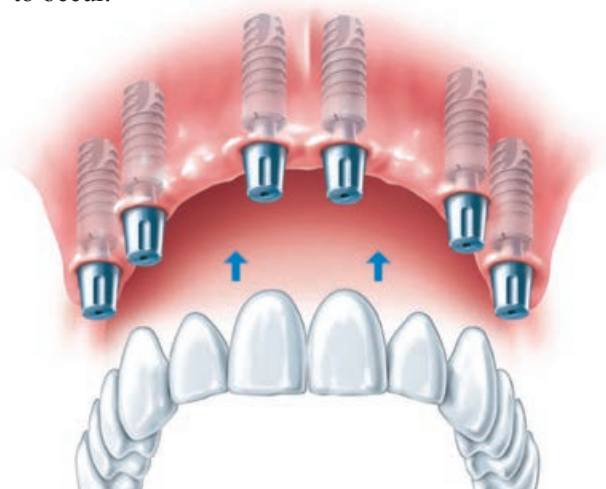
One of the most amazing possibilities dentistry can offer is providing a patient new teeth the same day. Magical transformations can help replace a single missing front tooth or whole mouth of teeth. These therapies are well researched and have a great deal of success in certain circumstances.

How Does It Work:

Teeth the same day is a general description for placing one or more implants in the mouth and locking crowns on them right away. This bypasses the traditional waiting period and allows teeth to be inserted right away. The procedure can provide a wide range of treatment options for many patients who need to replace failing or missing teeth.

A number of techniques can be used to help a patient get new teeth the same day. The options for treatment may vary as no patient typically has the exact same needs. For example, a person who has all of their teeth but has an accident which knocks out a single front tooth, is different than someone who is wearing a full denture and has no teeth.

In either case, a dental implant or implants can be placed in the mouth to act as a support beam for crowns. Remember, a tooth has 2 parts, the crown you see when you smile and the root which anchors it in the bone. When a whole tooth is extracted, an empty socket remains in the bone. A dental implant is simply a root replacement. This new “root” can often be placed in the empty socket and over time becomes glued to the bone. Traditionally, once an implant is inserted, we wait a number of months (can range from a few to 6 or more) for this gluing to occur.



An important aspect for receiving teeth the same day is the determination of how “snug” the implant fits in the bone or socket at the time of the procedure. We know that ultimately the implant will likely glue to the bone, but determining the initial stability helps decide if we can place a crown on the implant right away. If the implant is not sufficiently “snug”, attaching a crown to it immediately might cause the implant to loosen and fail. This is similar to putting a pole in wet cement and then moving the pole around. In this case, the pole will likely come out. The key to success of using implants for immediate support of teeth is the bone quantity and quality present in the area being considered for treatment.

Am I a Candidate:

Teeth the same day is a very successful approach, but it is not applicable in all cases. A patient with vast infection in the bone is very different than a patient with excellent bone that fell and broke a tooth. In addition, an individual’s overall health history and medications may greatly impact success. An in-depth evaluation and a 3D CT scan are very important in determining the bone present in the treatment areas. This evaluation will help see if sufficient bone remains for treatment planning this type of procedure.

Teeth the same day can offer many patients a fantastic way to rebuild their smile and chewing ability with little downtime. The procedure is not for everyone and for every case. A great deal of skill and careful evaluation is needed to successfully plan and execute this advanced procedure.

Lee R. Cohen, D.D.S., M.S., M.S.

Lee R. Cohen, D.D.S., M.S., M.S., is a Dual Board Certified Periodontal and Dental Implant Surgeon. He is a graduate of Emory University and New York University College of Dentistry.



Dr. Cohen completed his surgical training at the University of Florida / Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Florida. He served as Chief Resident and currently holds a staff appointment as a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Periodontics and Dental Implantology. Dr. Cohen lectures, teaches and performs clinical research on topics related to his surgical specialty.

The focus of his interests are conservative approaches to treating gum, bone and tooth loss. He utilizes advanced techniques including the use of the Periolas Dental Laser (LANAP procedure) to help save teeth, dental implants, regenerate supporting bone and treat periodontal disease without the use of traditional surgical procedures. Additionally, Dr. Cohen is certified in Pinhole Gum Rejuvenation, which is a scalpel and suture free procedure to treat gum recession with immediate results.

Dr. Cohen uses in-office, state of the art 3D Green 2 CT imaging which offers Hi Resolution 5 Second Low Dose Scans to develop the least invasive dental implant and bone regeneration treatment options. Dr. Cohen and his facility are state certified to perform both IV and Oral Sedation procedures. Botox® and Dermal Fillers are also utilized to enhance patients’ cosmetic outcomes.

Dr. Cohen formerly served on the Board of Trustees for the American Academy of Periodontology and the Florida Dental Association. He is past president of the Florida Association of Periodontists and the Atlantic Coast District Dental Association. Dr. Cohen is a member of the American College of Maxillofacial Implantology and the American Academy of Facial Esthetics. In addition, he has been awarded Fellowship in the American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists and the Pierre Fauchard Academy.



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Ensuring our Parents Health Through Medication Compliance

By Dr. David Steinberg, Pharmacist

As the baby boomer generation ages and medications become more numerous, children and family members are charged with caring for the loved ones. This task comes not only with much stress but also with many questions. The questions often



range from “Who will administer the medication when I’m not there?” “Is there a risk of my family member taking too many pills?” “How can I be sure that my family member is taking the same amount of medications he was taking at the long term care facility?” These are just a couple of questions that we get at the pharmacy when we consult with family members and patients. As patients increase the number medications taken along with an increase to the number of physicians, the rise of medications errors is inevitable. Patients rely on family members or homecare givers to ensure compliance. We can do more. Every extra precaution or measure is well worth it when it comes to our family member. Our pharmacy has a unique system to mitigate medication errors such as over-medication and under-medication. We use, what is commonly called in the industry, a “bingo card.” It is becoming the industry gold standard and not only ensures medication compliance but puts the family at ease. It is a unit dose system where the patient’s medications are divided into morning, afternoon, evening and bedtime. Each time slot has its own cell allowing the patient to know if the medicine was taken or not. It eliminates counting pills, filling pillboxes, and remembering doses. As a pharmacist, I hope to reduce common and preventable errors and help everyone live healthier lives. Please call TrustedMedRx with any questions at 561-613-6209 or 855-9EZ-MEDS.

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THE CORNEA

By David A. Goldman MD



Although people may have heard the word ‘cornea’ in reference to the eye, many are unaware of what it really refers to. While diseases such as glaucoma and macular degeneration affect the back of the eye, the cornea is in the front of the eye.

In fact, the cornea is the most anterior structure of the eye. It is the clear part responsible for much of the focusing of light waves which enter the eye. When patients place contact lenses on their eye, they are placing them on their corneas. When patients develop an abrasion (scratch) or infectious ulcer of the eye, it is typically in the cornea.

The cornea consists of several layers, but it is simplest to break it down into three: epithelium,

stroma, and endothelium. The epithelium is the superficial outer layer of cells. When a scratch occurs on the cornea, the epithelium acts quickly to fill in the scratch. In cases of severe dry eye, tiny dried out “holes” can also appear in the epithelium.

The stroma is the central portion of the cornea, and comprises the bulk of it. It provides the majority of structural support to the cornea. When patients undergo LASIK surgery, it is the stroma that is affected. In LASIK, a laser creates a flap within the stroma. That flap is then lifted and a laser then reshapes the cornea under the flap. For patients who are myopic (nearsighted), the laser flattens the center of the cornea. For patients who are hyperopic (farsighted), the laser removes tissue in a circular pattern to steepen the cornea. The endothelium is

the most posterior layer of the cornea. Consisting of a layer of cells, these endothelial cells work as microscopic pumps to pump fluid out of the cornea to keep it clear. As we age the number of endothelial cells decline. Typically this is asymptomatic. In conditions such as Fuchs Dystrophy, however, patients are born with a lower number of endothelial cells and at some point may require surgery. Fortunately, the surgical options have improved greatly – less than ten years ago a new procedure was developed called DSAEK. In the past, corneal swelling which did not respond to topical eye drops required a full thickness corneal transplant. With the DSAEK procedure, solely the posterior layer of cells is transplanted. With this newer technique, vision can be restored in weeks instead of months.

This is not to say that a full thickness corneal transplant does not have its place in eye care. Conditions such as keratoconus, where the cornea becomes irregularly cone shaped, and scars of the cornea can significantly limit visual acuity. In these cases, replacing all layers of the cornea can work well to restore vision. In many cases, laser vision correction can be performed over a corneal transplant so that the patient can see well without glasses.

While problems of the cornea, whether inherited or environmental, can significantly disturb vision, there are multiple procedures available to improve vision. As opposed to posterior eye pathology such as glaucoma and macular degeneration, the overwhelming majority of vision problems related to the cornea can be fixed.



DAVID A. GOLDMAN

Prior to founding his own private practice, Dr. David A. Goldman served as Assistant Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Palm Beach Gardens. Within the first of his five years of employment there, Dr. Goldman quickly became the highest volume surgeon. He has been recognized as one of the top 250 US surgeons by Premier Surgeon, as well as being awarded a Best Doctor and Top Ophthalmologist.

Dr. Goldman received his Bachelor of Arts cum laude and with distinction in all subjects from Cornell University and Doctor of Medicine with distinction in research from the Tufts School of Medicine. This

was followed by a medical internship at Mt. Sinai – Cabrini Medical Center in New York City. He then completed his residency and cornea fellowship at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, Florida. Throughout his training, he received multiple awards including 2nd place in the American College of Eye Surgeons Bloomberg memorial national cataract competition, nomination for the Ophthalmology Times writer’s award program, 2006 Paul Kayser International Scholar, and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) research award in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Dr. Goldman currently serves as councilor from ASCRS to the American Academy of Ophthalmology. In addition to serving

as an examiner for board certification, Dr. Goldman also serves on committees to revise maintenance of certification exams for current ophthalmologists.

Dr. Goldman’s clinical practice encompasses medical, refractive, and non-refractive surgical diseases of the cornea, anterior segment, and lens. This includes, but is not limited to, corneal transplantation, microincisional cataract surgery, and LASIK. His research interests include advances in cataract and refractive technology, dry eye management, and internet applications of ophthalmology.

Dr. Goldman speaks English and Spanish.

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IT'S HOT EVERYWHERE IN JULY

Brent Myers



Have you noticed that Summer has arrived? If you haven't, just wait, you will. This is how I can usually tell that our wonderful south Florida Summer has come: when I bathe, get dressed, walk outside the house thirty feet to my car and when I get in – I feel like someone has rubbed a glazed doughnut all over my face.

Is it just me? I doubt it.

But don't misunderstand my description for complaining. Several years ago I learned a very valuable lesson that has had a profound spiritual impact on my life. There was a July Summer day that I was grumbling about how hot and humid it was and wondering aloud how nice it must be in another part of the country. At that moment, a wise man looked at me and said, "Brent... it's hot *everywhere* in July."

Wow!! Simple, but so true!

He wasn't providing a meteorological analysis of the climate zones of the United States, but instead he was telling me: "Be content."

Too many times in our lives we look at our circumstances and wish things were better – or at least different. But spiritually speaking, we need to learn to be content with the life that God has given us – even if it stinks (for right now.)

St. Paul wrote these words: *"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."* (Philippians 4:11-12)

Paul was sharing the reality of his life – that he had learned to be content. Whether he was poor or rich – regardless of the circumstances of his life – he was content. Oh, and just for a frame of reference... Paul wrote these words while in prison in ancient Rome!

But before we say to ourselves, "Well, that was the great St. Paul and I could never do that." Let's read a bit further: *"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."* (Philippians 4:13) Do you see that?! Paul couldn't do it on his own either!! He understood that his contentment in life – even in prison – came because Jesus Christ enabled him to deal with it.

So the next time life gives you a bad turn or the next time you find yourself complaining... seek to be content. Try to find the reality of the situation you are in – that God is doing something for a bigger purpose than yourself and He will get you through it. Learn to be content.

Socrates is credited with saying: "He who is not contented with what he has, would not be contented with what he would like to have."

Why? Because it's hot everywhere in July.

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