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Issue 10
February 2003

The Best Vision Newsletter

Cataract Surgery Reduces Senior Citizen Auto Accident Rate by 50%

A recent publication in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA, 2002;288:841-849, 885-886) demonstrates that older patients that undergo cataract surgery and IOL implantation experience about 50% the rate of motor vehicle accidents four to six years later than cataract patients who do not have surgery.

This prospective cohort study was performed at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine and enrolled 277 patients from 55 to 84 years of age, recruited from 12 Alabama eye clinics between October 1994 and March 1996 who had cataracts. Enrollment included 174 participants who had surgery and 103 who did not, and these patients were followed from four to six years to determine if cataract surgery impacted their crash risk.

Adjusted for race and baseline visual acuity and contrast sensitivity, the researchers found that participants who had cataract surgery had a rate ratio for crashes of 0.47 compared to those who did not have the surgery. Drivers older than 60 years demonstrated the lowest crash rate on the basis of licensed drivers – about 40 crashes per 1000 licensed drivers compared to about 140 crashes per 1000 licensed drivers younger than 25 years. However, older adults have a crash rate equivalent to younger drivers, whose crash rate is the highest among all age groups, when measured on a basis of miles driven.

Previous studies have revealed that crash risk in older adults with cataract is more strongly linked to vision in the worse functioning eye. This recent JAMA study reinforces that cataract surgery may have a proactive, protective effect against auto crashes in older individuals.

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The Erdey Eye Group has a sincere, lifetime commitment to your best vision. We believe that there are few things more precious in life than your eyesight. Our knowledgeable, caring, highly trained and professional staff are dedicated to the enhancement and preservation of this valuable gift. Utilizing the most up-to-date technology, we provide a unique and unified approach which ensures personal attention to your total eye care. We pledge that every effort will be made to meet your needs. Your best vision is our priority.

The **Best Vision Newsletter** is YOUR Newsletter
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Cataracts? Glaucoma? LVC? Corneal Transplants?
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Email your suggestions for future issues to Patrick Janson, OD
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