

2-00:08:20 25-00:09:22

Page 9

MDTV MEDICAL NEWS NOW - LASIK SURGERY

(1) At Delta Airlines it is our pleasure to get you to
 (2) the place you want to be. Delta Airlines, on top of
 (3) the world.
 (4) **COMMERCIAL:** At 6 a.m. they begin to
 (5) arrive from cities around the world.
 (6) Heads of major corporations share their
 (7) vision.
 (8) Their strategy.
 (9) If these leaders were visiting a nation,
 (10) it would be called a global economic summit.
 (11) When they arrive at Fidelity...
 (12) It's called just another day at the
 (13) office. Just one of the ways we uncover
 (14) opportunities to help you make the most of your
 (15) money.
 (16) **ANNOUNCER:** To learn more about LASIK
 (17) laser vision correction or to find out if you are a
 (18) candidate for LASIK, you can reach Nevyas Eye
 (19) Associates toll free at 800-9-LASER-6. That's (800)
 (20) 952-7376.
 (21)
 (22) **MS. MURPHY-STARK:** Welcome back to MDTV
 (23) Medical News Now. Our topic today is the correction
 (24) of nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism
 (25)

2-00:09:30 25-00:10:34

Page 10

MDTV MEDICAL NEWS NOW - LASIK SURGERY

(1) through a procedure called LASIK laser vision
 (2) correction.
 (3) With more about LASIK and the technology
 (4) behind it is medical reporter Sean Doran and today's
 (5) MDTV medical moment.
 (6) **MR. DORAN:** LASIK or laser vision
 (7) correction is a procedure that owes its phenomenal
 (8) success rate to two factors: The skill of the
 (9) surgeon and a computer-controlled laser developed in
 (10) 1979 by IBM for the production of silicone computer
 (11) chips. It's called the excimer laser, and today is
 (12) used to correct poor vision. Here's how:
 (13) The first step in LASIK laser vision
 (14) correction is to analyze the irregularities of the
 (15) eye. This is accomplished through corneal
 (16) topography. The automated equipment measures the
 (17) eye according to several thousand points and creates
 (18) a topographical map of the cornea's shape. This
 (19) information is fed into a computer and will be used
 (20) to guide the laser. Next, the ophthalmic surgeon
 (21) uses a device called a microkeratome to create a
 (22) protective corneal flap. The flap is folded over,
 (23) exposing the inner corneal tissue. Now, the surgeon
 (24) uses the excimer laser to precisely sculp the inner
 (25)

3-00:10:36 25-00:11:40

Page

MDTV MEDICAL NEWS NOW - LASIK SURGERY

(1) cornea.
 (2) While most surgical lasers burn tissue,
 (3) the excimer laser uses a cool ultraviolet beam that
 (4) dissolves the bonds between molecules in the cells
 (5) gently painlessly reshaping the cornea. And because
 (6) this refractive ablation takes place on the inner
 (7) cornea, the accuracy of the correction far exceeds
 (8) that of all previous procedures.
 (9) Any questions or comments, please call
 (10) toll free 1-877-MDTVNOW. That is, 1-877-638-8669.
 (11) **MS. MURPHY-STARK:** We're joined now by
 (12) Dr. Anita Nevyas-Wallace, a board certified
 (13) ophthalmologist. Dr. Nevyas-Wallace has taught at
 (14) her alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania
 (15) School of Medicine in addition to her faculty
 (16) appointment at the Medical College of Pennsylvania.
 (17) She has performed thousands of LASIK procedures in
 (18) the Delaware Valley and has operated internationally
 (19) as an invited guest surgeon and recognized innovator
 (20) in the field of refractive surgery.
 (21) Doctor, welcome to the show.
 (22) **DR. NEVYAS-WALLACE:** Thank you so much,
 (23) Pat. It's good to be here.
 (24) **MS. MURPHY-STARK:** Now, the technology
 (25)

2-00:11:42 25-00:12:40

Page 12

MDTV MEDICAL NEWS NOW - LASIK SURGERY

(1) that we saw in the LASIK procedure is really
 (2) incredible, and I'm sure it would have to be because
 (3) it's such a delicate procedure. But how safe really
 (4) is LASIK?
 (5) **DR. NEVYAS-WALLACE:** LASIK is very safe.
 (6) In fact, statistics show that Nationwide 98 percent
 (7) of patients experience significant improvement of
 (8) their vision. Now, I aspire to a hundred percent,
 (9) but a lot of factors come into play in determining
 (10) safety. For one thing, the need to be sure that a
 (11) person is really an excellent candidate for this
 (12) surgery. For another, the technology itself, the
 (13) laser and the microkeratome are very important. And
 (14) the surgeon, the surgeon learned hands, level of
 (15) skill and experience, mindset are crucial.
 (16) **MS. MURPHY-STARK:** Now, Doctor, you
 (17) mentioned a good candidate for this procedure. Who
 (18) is a good candidate?
 (19) **DR. NEVYAS-WALLACE:** Well, a person who
 (20) is nearsighted or farsighted or has astigmatism can
 (21) be treated. Now, if a person is nearsighted, we
 (22) fold the flap back and use the laser to flatten the
 (23) central cornea. In a person who's farsighted after
 (24) the flap is folded back, the laser is being use to
 (25)