

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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San Diego Based Gordon Binder & Weiss Vision Institute to participate U.S. Clinical Trial Procedure for Aging Eyes

San Diego, CA (March 20, 2006) – The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a U.S. Clinical Trial to test the safety and effectiveness of the AcuFocus ACI 7000 Inlay. The inlay is intended to improve reading vision in patients with presbyopia (“aging eyes”) without affecting their distance. The goal is to attempt to restore the focusing functions of the eye that has been lost with age. Qualified participants will receive the procedure at no charge.

One of the first procedures in the United States will be performed at Gordon Binder & Weiss Vision Institute in San Diego. The inlay is placed within the eye’s outer clear layer (cornea) without the use of sutures. Perry S. Binder, MD, will be performing the procedures. He is a world renowned refractive surgeon who lectures and trains other doctors worldwide.

“There have been excellent results in clinical studies outside the United States, and I am very excited that the clinical trials will be available to people in the U.S.,” said Dr. Binder, who has performed more than 15,000 laser and surgical vision correction procedures. “This procedure has the potential to be the first treatment for presbyopia to partially restore the reading ability while at the same time it also has the safety of being reversible.”

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Gordon Binder & Weiss Vision Institute is one of San Diego’s most established and respected eye centers. Dr. Michael Gordon, Dr. Perry S. Binder and Dr. Jack L. Weiss have been instrumental in gaining FDA approval for numerous vision correction technologies and surgical techniques. Patients benefit from the multiple technologies

available at Gordon Binder & Weiss Vision Institute. Depending on the health of an individual's eye, their age, the level of refractive error, and visual requirements, our surgeons have the unique capability to create a customized treatment plan for the patient's specific visual needs.

Acufocus Trial

Who can benefit?

Anyone who has trouble reading or the need for reading glasses, but does not need glasses for distance vision

Who is eligible?

The Acufocus Inlay Clinical trial is open to men and women between the ages of 45 and 55 who are in good health and have normal, healthy distance vision in both eyes.

What's involved?

Implanting a 4mm diameter disk is a simple surgical procedure that takes less than 15 minutes. It is the same procedure as the first step in the well known LASIK procedure, but instead of using a laser to make a vision correction, a small disk is implanted under the corneal flap. After the procedure, participants will be required to return for scheduled follow-up examinations over a three-year period. Participants will receive the procedure and all examinations at no charge.

How does it work?

The implanted disk is about the diameter of a normal pupil. It is shaped like a doughnut. The “hole” in the doughnut does the focusing for the up close reading. Because the overall diameter is so small, the distance vision is not affected.

What is presbyopia?

The Greek word for “aging eye,” presbyopia is the most prevalent eye condition in the world, affecting most people after age 40 and everyone by age 50. Presbyopia causes near vision to fade with age, making it difficult to see things up-close. An estimated 90 million Baby-boomers either have presbyopia or will develop the condition within the next 10 years. These people struggle to read or do hobby work and must rely on magnifying reading glasses for even the most mundane of daily tasks, like checking their watch or seeing the computer screen.

How to sign up

Anyone interested in participating in the clinical trial in the San Diego area should contact Gordon Binder & Weiss Vision Institute at 858-455-6800 and ask about the Acufocus Clinical Trial.