

Dr. Hiroyuki Arai (left) gave a new lease of life three years ago to John Fanorakis (right) by performing LASIK surgery on his eyes.

Seeing Is Beleiving Minamiaoyama Eye Clinic

Dr. Hiroyuki Arai is one of the most experienced vision-correction surgeons in Japan. Since studying LASIK surgery in Santa Monica, California, nine years ago, he has performed over 4,000 operations and built an impressive track record on Phalic IOL surgery, which is primarily done on cornea unsuitable for LASIK.

"I've had LASIK surgery myself and it completely changed my life. That's why I can recommend it wholeheartedly," he says. The emerald-green waters along Santa Monica that he saw the morning after his operation is still etched in his mind. "I will never

forget that great view," he says. "I became more active after getting back my normal vision, and I want to recommend LASIK, particularly to active and positive-minded people."

John Fanorakis, who had LASIK surgery by Dr. Arai three years ago, also attests it has given him a new lease on life. "I go mountain climbing and swim a lot. It's great not having to wear glasses or contact lenses anymore."

Dr. Arai, who began his career as an eye surgeon at the National Defense Hospital in Japan, still regularly performs cataract and other major eye surgeries at his clinic

in Yokohama. "LASIK is a low-risk operation by comparison," he says. State-of-the-art computers—the latest VISX StarS4IR model, in his case—do most of the work, from examination of the cornea, to calculation of the corrective measures to be taken. However, like most surgery, it's the experience, skill and judgment of the physician that count most.

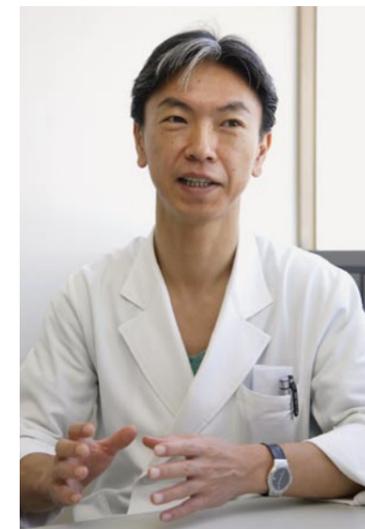
"In addition to sharpness of vision, there is the question of contrast, brightness, halo and glare to take into account. That's why it's important to first find out what kind of vision a patient wants."

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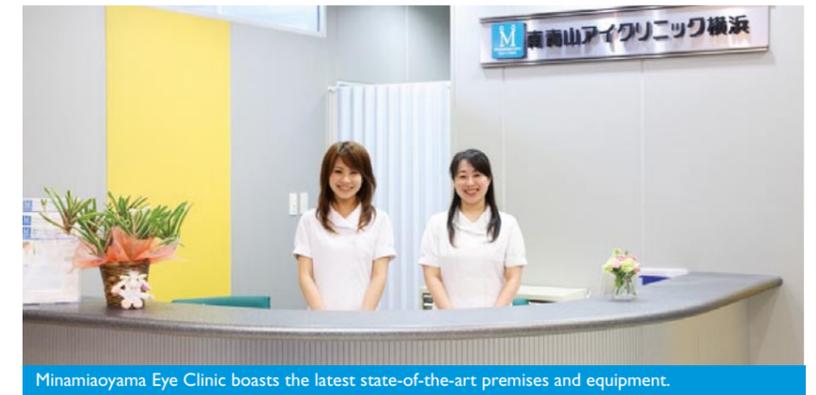
The procedure itself is remarkably quick, taking no more than 15 minutes for both eyes. Before the operation, the patient's eyes are anesthetized with drops. Vision improvement is immediate after the procedure.

Mr. Fanorakis, who knows Dr. Arai socially, had complete confidence in him; his biggest fear was that the operation would be painful—which, fortunately, was not the case. "The pre-operation test itself was completely painless, so I knew then it was going to be OK," he says.

In Europe and the United States, LASIK surgery has become quite common in the 16 years since a Greek physician invented the procedure. "I think the standards of ophthalmology are very high in Japan. Korean and Taiwanese eye surgeons also have a good reputation," Dr. Arai says. "Asians have deft



Dr. Hiroyuki Arai has performed more than 4,000 LASIK operations over the past nine years.



Minamiaoyama Eye Clinic boasts the latest state-of-the-art premises and equipment.

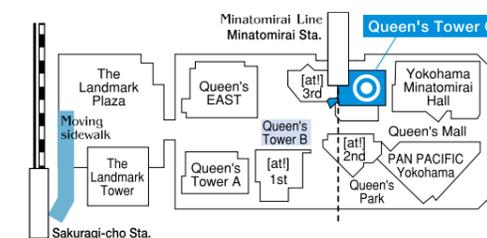
fingers, and that's an advantage in eye surgery, which requires using one's fingertips with precision."

Dr. Arai sees the reputation of Asian ophthalmologists spreading worldwide, with Japanese physicians having repeatedly won awards in the U.S. for cataract operations. Perhaps, this is why Dr. Arai has patients flying in from London and San Francisco. "The Japanese are good at adapting techniques and improving them, and this is precisely what we did with LASIK," he says.

Other vision-correction techniques have emerged, notably Phalic IOL, in which many ophthalmologists

who had previously shied away from LASIK are taking an interest. Dr. Arai is one of only two professionals certified in Japan to perform Phalic IOL, a lens-embedding procedure carried out over a two-week period. Dr. Arai believes a combination of LASIK and Phalic IOL is the way forward. When necessary, LASIK can perform minor adjustments to one's vision after a Phalic IOL operation.

"When I had my LASIK surgery and realized the difference it can make in people's lives, I decided to devote my career to vision improvement," Dr. Arai says. "My goal is to refine the technique for an even greater quality of vision."



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Minamiaoyama Eye Clinic celebrated its 10th anniversary on June 6th by offering a special Anniversary Plan of ¥100,000 off LASIK treatment performed between June and December 2007. The fee for the procedure will be ¥380,000 (¥399,000 with tax) instead of the regular ¥480,000 (¥504,000 with tax).