

Your Eye Health is Her Only Focus

Dr. Judith Kirby, board-certified ophthalmologist, has been caring for the ophthalmologic health of patients in Dallas and beyond for 20 years. Her practice, Kirby Eye Center, celebrates 10 years this year.

“**S**ure, I could work for someone else and not have to worry about the things business owners worry about,” says Dr. Kirby. “But I made a conscious decision to start my own practice. I have a very high standard for patient care and want it done a certain way.”

Kirby Eye Center now employs four ophthalmologists, chosen for their qualifications and experience. The practice treats cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and more. And Dr. Kirby loves every moment. Cataract surgery, she says, is particularly rewarding.

“The joy people get after surgery is awesome,” she says. “One 10-minute procedure can restore lost vision. I can think of no other way to so dramatically improve a person’s lifestyle.”

Macular degeneration treatment is another key part of Dr. Kirby’s practice. Macular degeneration has been a leading cause of blindness in patients over 50 years of age, but with the advent of modern technologies to treat it, “we have been able to preserve vision in up to 80 percent of ‘wet’ macular degeneration patients over the last 10 years,” Dr. Kirby says. “It’s gratifying to know I’m saving someone’s vision.”

Detective and Patient Advocate

Dr. Kirby and her team look out for patients in other ways, too. Occasionally that means detecting disease in other parts of the body. In such cases, Dr. Kirby describes herself as both medical detective and advocate.

“Multiple sclerosis [MS], brain tumors, stroke, carotid artery disease—eye health may speak to any of these,” she says. “I’m often required to pick up the phone and discuss a patient’s health with his or her neurologist, rheumatologist, or primary care doctor.”

And she isn’t afraid to recommend the best course of action for the patient—even when it might not be the most financially beneficial course for her practice.

“There seems to be this big push in ophthalmology to sell premium intraocular lenses for cataract surgery,”

says Dr. Kirby. “But some of these premium lenses have drawbacks, not the least of which is price. I want people to know I am committed to doing what’s best for them, and together we’ll discuss all options.”



GIVING BACK

Dr. Kirby has helped hundreds through two public programs dear to her heart.

Through EyeCare America,[®] a service program managed by the American Academy[™] of Ophthalmology Foundation, Dr. Kirby provides medical eye care with no out-of-pocket costs to patients.

A member of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, Dr. Kirby volunteers with Operation Sight, performing cataract surgery on patients who might otherwise be unable to access or afford it.

