

Helping People See Clearly

Experts on ophthalmological issues,
Cornea & Cataract Consultants provides individualized
care for patients with a variety of vision needs.



Left to right: Ira A. Shivitz, M.D.; Bernard Chang, M.D.; Erich B. Groos Jr., M.D.; Mark Ewald, M.D.; and Jordan R. Hill, M.D.

Cornea & Cataract Consultants is known far and wide for its range of ophthalmological services. The practice's fellowship-trained physicians are experts in the field, each having studied eye surgery and corneas extensively, and the care they administer

rivals that of any university hospital.

Yet for Erich B. Groos Jr., M.D., co-founder of the practice, basic treatments are just as important as major interventions. "We take care of everyone, whether they need glasses or cataract surgery," he says. "There are different levels of need in the vision care system, and while we understand the very complicated issues, we know that simple things can be just as transformational."

Prioritizing Patient Comfort

Ask most people where their cornea is, and they'll guess correctly: It's at the center of the eye, covering the pupil, iris, and the fluid-filled inside of the eye. What they might not know is that the cornea is the only living part of the body devoid of blood vessels, breathing oxygen through the air instead.

This makes contact lenses tricky business. "You're taking something that's having trouble breathing and putting an extra

layer of plastic on top of it," Dr. Groos says. Forgetting to take contacts out at night further reduces protection and opens the door for bacteria.

However, hard contact lenses are often necessary to correct conditions like keratoconus, a warping of the cornea that causes blurred vision and light sensitivity. At Cornea & Cataract Consultants, an in-house specialist fits keratoconus patients with sclera lenses, which are placed over the eye's less sensitive sclera. This protects the cornea with a moisture chamber to create a stable, therapeutic fit—particularly for young people who've been diagnosed with keratoconus and find contacts uncomfortable.

Cornea & Cataract Consultants are experts in providing efficient, comfortable

treatments—among them, partial thickness transplants, which address the back layer of the cornea when it becomes swollen. Partial thickness transplants take about 20 to 30 minutes and can even be performed on old, failed transplants from years earlier.

"Instead of replacing the whole cornea, as was standard years ago, we attend to just the part that needs to be replaced," says Mark Ewald, M.D., one of the practice's five physicians. "This enables faster recovery for patients, less rejection of the transplant, and less astigmatism afterward." The excellent eye banking system in the U.S. makes the process even swifter: There's no waiting list for a cornea transplant, and corneas come fashioned, ready to be placed inside the patient's eye.

Even the most straightforward surgeries can be daunting for patients. That's why Drs. Groos and Ewald, and their colleagues Drs. Ira Shivitz, Bernard Chang, and Jordan Hill, always see their patients post-operatively—something larger practices can't promise.

"You never know: Some people think they're doing well but actually have something that looks suspicious," Dr. Groos says. "We create an extra level of value and care."



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