

Another Scottish first for Ayrshire surgeon

A surgeon at Ayr Hospital who was the first in Scotland in 2008 to perform a revolutionary corneal endothelial transplant operation has now achieved another Scottish first.

In 2008, Mr Srinivasan first performed the operation which restored patients' sight in weeks, rather than the usual 12 to 15 months by using part of a donor cornea. This year, using a new surgical technique called automated superficial anterior lamellar keratoplasty (SALK), Mr Srinivasan and his team have succeeded in using a single donor cornea to restore sight in two different patients.

The original, highly specialised corneal transplant surgery involved replacing only the affected layers of the cornea. This new procedure involves the same type of surgery but instead of discarding unused part of the cornea, Mr Srinivasan and his team have successfully used the remaining part of the unused cornea which would have normally been discarded to perform an anterior corneal transplant on a second patient.

The new procedure is another step forward in the field of corneal transplantation. Mr Srinivasan says: "Right now there are about 1000 people in the UK waiting for a corneal transplant. By using this new innovative technique we have managed to use one donor cornea for two patients. This will mean that waiting lists for this type of surgery will reduce, with more people being able to regain their sight.

Mr Maurice Cameron, 81, from Alloway was one of the first patients in Scotland to benefit from this new surgery. Mr Cameron, who is a keen golfer and snooker enthusiast said: "My sight had deteriorated in both eyes but my left eye was worse. The treatment I have received has been superb. Everyone at Ayr Hospital and especially the doctors and nurses were brilliant.

“The difference in my sight is very noticeable and my thanks go to everyone involved in my treatment, it has made a huge difference to my life.”

The second patient who benefited from this procedure was Linda Gutteridge, 53, from Wishaw in Lanarkshire. Linda, who had her right eye operated on, said: “There was no pain and no fuss involved in the procedure. The treatment has been great and I can now do things that everyone else just takes for granted. I would like to thank Mr Srinivasan and his team for all their care.”

Ends

Photographs

Mr Cameron is pictured with Mr Srinivasan and his surgical team at the Day Surgery Unit at Ayr Hospital



Mr Srinivasan and his surgical team in Theatre where they perform life-changing procedures



Linda Gutteridge is pictured with Mr Srinivasan at a check-up appointment

