



Thursday April 15th 2010

PRESS RELEASE

CHANGING LIVES: My sight was saved by Blackpool surgeon.

A Thornton teenager says a new operation at Blackpool Victoria Hospital has changed his life.

Consultant Ophthalmologist, Mr. Imran Rahman, radically improved life for 14 year old Dominic Moses who underwent a procedure for treating painful corneal problems.

This new procedure, called alcohol delamination of the corneal epithelium, involves applying concentrated alcohol to the corneal surface to allow dissection of the corneal epithelium from the underlying surface. Any unhealthy epithelium is then surgically removed during the operation.

The corneal epithelium is the protective transparent skin of the eye and measures only a few cell layers deep.

The alcohol delamination technique allows the epithelium to be removed easily with minimal discomfort.

Prior to this operation, Dominic suffered from Recurrent Corneal Erosion Syndrome (RES), a rare condition within young people.

RES causes extremely painful breakdown of the cells of the transparent epithelium. In Dominic's care, RES was possibly caused by a hereditary genetic condition within his family.

This usually occurs in the early hours of the morning where patients find themselves unable to open their eyes due to the intense discomfort of the erosion. Even though the injury heals, healing is not permanent and the scratches will reappear without reason causing debilitating pain. This is known as corneal erosions.

Having attended specialist eye centres in the region over the past seven years, Dominic resigned himself to the pain and vision problems of RES as no treatment was available.

But then a chance outpatient appointment at Victoria Hospital led to Dominic meeting Mr. Rahman who agreed to perform the new procedure.

Now Dominic can see clearly without pain, a gift that he is most grateful for. Dominic said: "Since my operation, my life has changed significantly. I can see clearly and it is a wonderful feeling not to be in fear of the next attack of pain. Apart from wearing a baseball cap and special contact lens for a few weeks to protect my eyes from the sun, the advantages are amazing. I am hoping to take up a work placement at BAE Systems, something I could only have dreamt about previously. I feel like I have my life back."

Dominic's mum, Mrs. Lorraine Moses, said: "Dominic has missed at least 40% of schooling due to the condition being so unpredictable. We never knew what kind of pain he would be in or how long an episode would last. Now, it's totally different. The family is currently planning our first summer holiday abroad in years. I cannot thank Mr. Rahman and his team enough for the difference they have made to Dominic and our family life".

Mr. Rahman, Consultant Ophthalmologist, who operated on Dominic said: "The alcohol delamination procedure means that suitable patients' are able to undergo a fast, safe and very effective treatment that essentially cures RES."

"Importantly, there are no changes to the structure of the cornea which occurs when using lasers. This ensures that long term problems are more or less eliminated with alcohol delamination.

"In Dominic's case, after having long discussions about the procedure with him and his parents, it was important that quick and safe action was taken as he had been in and out of A&E for seven years due to RES.

"I am delighted that Dominic has made a full recovery and can now look forward to a normal life without pain and concentrate on his future."

For more information on this press release, please contact Zoe Graham, Communications Officer on 01253 306875 or via email: zoe.graham@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk



Above: Consultant Ophthalmologist, Mr. Imran Rahman,