

Health Authorities Turn To LASIK MD To Reduce Cataract Surgery Wait Times

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Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, many medical treatments and surgeries have been delayed, including in the field of eye care. This has resulted in a significant backlog that's jeopardizing the health of Canadians.

For example, over 143,000 eye surgeries have been missed or delayed since 2020.¹ The wait times for cataract surgeries have increased by an average of 31 days.² These delays have contributed to the vision loss of at least 1,400 Canadians.³ Experts estimate it will take at least 2 years and \$129 million to clear the backlog.⁴

To ease the burden on the public healthcare system and help clear the backlog, Canadian health authorities have started turning to LASIK MD's clinics. Several LASIK MD clinics have reached agreements with regional and provincial health authorities to provide space and resources to cataract surgeons and their patients from the public health sector. This is providing thousands of Canadians with access to important cataract treatments.

These partnerships have already made a significant impact on reducing the cataract surgery backlog. In Quebec City, as highlighted by *Radio Canada*, the wait times for this type of procedure was 3 to 4 years in 2020. But since CISSS of Chaudière-Appalaches partnered with LASIK MD, the wait time has been reduced to a year and a half. It's hoped this could be cut down even further to 6 months.

The success of such public/private sector partnerships have encouraged a discussion about using the private sector to reduce waiting lists for a variety of surgeries and treatments. This could transform the quality of life for many Canadians as well as alleviate pressure on the public health system.

LASIK MD is in active discussion with other provincial health authorities to further help reduce the backlog of eyecare treatments and surgeries caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

REFERENCE

1. Gordon, Keith. *The Impact of COVID-19 on the Prevalence and Cost of Vision Loss and Blindness in Canada*. November 2021. PowerPoint Presentation to Medtech Canada.
2. *Ibid.*
3. *Ibid.*
4. *Ibid.*

ABOUT LASIK MD

LASIK MD is a leading national provider of laser and intraocular lens vision correction procedures. Throughout its nearly 20-year history, the company has been dedicated to treating patients with state-of-the-art technology at affordable prices.

LASIK MD operates over 30 clinics across Canada, and has a team of more than 50 experienced surgeons who have collectively performed **more than one million procedures** (including 500,000 in Quebec alone).

The company also partners with thousands of optometrists, who themselves refer patients and trust their own eyes to LASIK MD. Renowned for its exceptional medical and business practices, LASIK MD is the recipient of Deloitte's Best Managed Company Platinum Club Status, which is awarded to those organizations who have retained their Best Managed Companies status for seven or more consecutive years. For more information, please visit lasikmd.com.

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