



Laser Eye Surgery is a Life Changer for SickKids® Patient

Latest video in storytelling series features Callum Blackburn who suffers from Angelman Syndrome

Toronto, ON, October 20, 2016 – An excimer laser donated by LASIK MD, Canada’s leading provider of laser vision correction to The [Hospital for Sick Children](#) (SickKids®) in Toronto has opened up a world of sight for eleven year old Callum Blackburn. The donation enabled the implementation of a refractive care program to help improve the eyesight of some of the hospital’s brave, young patients. Children who suffer from developmental delays and are unable to wear glasses or contacts can now have their visual impairments treated with laser vision correction.

A Life-Altering Diagnosis

Born with Angelman Syndrome, a rare genetic condition that occurs in one of every 15,000 births, Callum’s parents soon came to understand the challenges that their young son would face including physical and cognitive delays, sleep disturbances, a lack of functional speech and frequent seizures.

Because children with Angelman Syndrome do not develop the ability to speak, communicating their needs can be extremely difficult. Interestingly for these children, the eyes take on an even greater role as an important means of expression. When a routine checkup found that Callum wasn’t able to see far distances, his parents naturally became concerned about the possibility of losing the ability to understand and connect with him through eye contact. The excimer laser donated by LASIK MD, provides ophthalmologists at SickKids® with an effective medical solution and Callum was deemed to be an ideal candidate for Laser Vision Correction. Since having his procedure, Callum can see clearly—and his world has truly opened up.

“Refractive surgery allows children to see clearly, therefore eliminating the need for them to wear glasses”, says Dr. Asim Ali, MD, a Staff Ophthalmologist at SickKids. “Being able to offer a refractive care program for the children at SickKids, allows us to help make a difference in their quality of life and we value the donation from LASIK MD.”

According to Dr. John Lloyd, a surgeon at LASIK MD, “Prior to this technology, there was no adequate way of treating these patients and they simply had to function in life with their visual disability. It’s much more than just an alternative to glasses or contacts for these kids, it’s their only option.”



Callum's Story

When word of Callum's journey reached the LASIK MD team, they knew it was special, and one that deserved to be shared.

"Callum and his family are inspiring as they try to live fully despite the physical limitations of Angelman Syndrome. At LASIK MD we understand the importance of vision health as well as the sense of fear that vision loss signifies", says Dr. Mark Cohen, President and Co-Founder of LASIK MD. "LASIK MD is extremely proud to be able to support the world-class work at SickKids through our donation of the excimer laser and to have been able to improve Callum Blackburn's vision."

LASIK MD is sharing Callum's story in order to provide hope to others as well as shine a light on the outstanding work at SickKids. For some of the children at SickKids®—laser vision correction isn't an alternative, it may be the only possible option towards achieving clearer vision.

Cameras joined Callum and his family before and after his procedure. The three-minute video features Callum and his mom, Heidi who describes the realities of her son's life and what it's like to live with Angelman Syndrome. The story will be shared on LASIK MD's various social media accounts and blog. To view Callum's video and learn more about his story, click [here](#).

About LASIK MD

LASIK MD is Canada's only national provider of laser vision correction, operating over 30 clinics in Canada. LASIK MD provides quality medical care using state-of-the-art technology at an affordable price. Our surgeons are highly experienced in the field, having collectively performed more than 1 million procedures in Canada since its inception. LASIK MD has been named one of Canada's Best Managed Companies for eight consecutive years and was recently honoured with Platinum status for this award. In 2008, founders Dr. Mark Cohen and Dr. Avi Wallerstein were named Ernst & Young's Entrepreneurs of the Year in the Professional Services category. LASIK MD takes an active role in its community with many corporate social responsibility initiatives, including a voluntary per-payroll donation program for Operation Eyesight.

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