

## Chapter 9

# Choosing the Right Doctor

The purpose of this book is to provide you with practical information in helping you make the right decision about having refractive eye surgery. Part of the decision involves selecting an experienced and qualified refractive eye surgeon. If after reading this book you should have any unanswered questions about refractive eye surgery, we are available to discuss them with you.

### **What should I look for in an eye surgeon?**

As with other professions, *reputation* is probably the most reliable factor in judging an ophthalmology practice. You are welcome to inquire about the experiences of our previous LASIK or LASEK patients, and we encourage our new patients to contact people who have already had refractive surgery in order to discuss any concerns you may have.

### **Advice from the National Institutes of Health**

The National Institutes of Health recommends that you evaluate the following criteria before deciding on an eye surgeon:

- **Experience**

Studies show that surgeons who perform more procedures and have been practicing for a longer period of time have gained the most expertise with the equipment and surgical techniques that are used.

- **Training**

It is in your best interests to select an eye surgeon who was trained and educated at a reputable institution. Prestigious institutions have earned good reputations by the quality of education they offer and the quality of the work that their doctors perform. The more exposure a surgeon has had during his training, the less risk his patients face.

- **Education**

Dr. Chynn received his medical degree from *Columbia University* and completed his residency in ophthalmology at the Massachusetts Ear and Eye Infirmary of *Harvard University*.

He then completed a one-year Fellowship in Refractive Surgery and Cornea and External Disease at Emory University, which has one of the most famous refractive surgery centers in the U.S. Many other doctors performing LASIK only attend a two-day course to become certified, and they lack the in-depth training that only a fellowship can offer.

- **Certifications**

Dr. Chynn is a *board-certified* ophthalmologist. This guarantees that he has been satisfactorily evaluated by

a national association in order to ensure the highest quality of patient care.

- **Professional memberships**

Not only is Dr. Chynn a Diplomate of the American Board of Ophthalmology, he is also a member of the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, the Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists, and the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology.

- **Training and teaching activities**

In addition to training other ophthalmologists how to perform LASIK, he has also had an active role in teaching hospitals throughout New York. He was Director of Refractive Surgery at St. Vincent's Hospital, Clinical Assistant Professor at Long Island College Hospital, Attending Surgeon at both the Manhattan Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital and the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary, and Surgical Director of the LASIK Laser Vision Correction Institute of New York.

- **Research and writing activities**

Dr. Chynn has published over 100 articles on his surgical activities, and his papers have been accepted by the most prestigious national and international ophthalmic journals.

He has performed extensive clinical and basic research, and has also been chosen by the FDA as 1 of only 12 Principal Investigators in the U.S. for experimental studies involving a new scanning excimer laser.

- **Reputation**

Dr. Chynn's extensive experience is backed up by his impressive success rate. You are welcome to inquire about the experiences of previous LASIK or LASEK pa-

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tients, and we encourage our new patients to read his patient testimonials.

- **Equipment**

We only use the latest, most up-to-date, and reliable technology, both in our laser equipment and in the training of our staff. Although Dr. Chynn is credentialed in the use of all excimer laser brands, he has chosen to use the VISX excimer laser to perform his refractive surgeries. This is the brand of laser that is used on 80% of the millions of LASIKs that occur in the U.S. every year.

For patients who qualify for the Wavefront procedure, we also provide ***CustomVue Wavefront*** technology.

Although it is recommended that you take the above factors into account to help you make the best decision, it is ultimately up to you to choose the doctor who is right for you. We are available for any questions you may have regarding our practice, and will also recommend other doctors if you wish to seek a second opinion.