

Meet Visianary Molly Jones

In August of 2013, Molly Jones received LASIK in her right eye and a Visian ICL implant in her left eye with Dr. John Mitchell at the Mitchell Eye Institute. Here's her story.

Bad vision has always been a hindrance. Many things like driving, watching TV, working on the computer, working out at the gym require contacts or glasses.

In college, where I was in an equestrian program, my contacts would always irritate me due to dust and dirt, but I withstood the inconvenience because wearing glasses would have been almost impossible.

In my twenties, my eyes became allergic to soft contacts so I had to start wearing gas permeable lenses. I've worn gas permeable lenses for about the last 18 years until last year, my left cornea was scratched by one of the lenses. I had no other option than to wear glasses until the scratch healed. My glasses were really thick and I couldn't see anything without them! That's when I decided to get a consult about LASIK.

If you are wondering why I waited till my mid 40's to get a consult, it's because I was afraid that if physicians saw how bad my myopia was, I would be turned down for any procedure and would have no options. Actually, that's exactly what happened after my first consult for LASIK! My left eye did not qualify for LASIK and no other options were given. I was pretty devastated. Heartbroken, but determined, I went for another consultation and was again told my left eye was not a candidate, but there was a glimmer of hope. I was given a pamphlet on the ICL and some information about Dr. Mitchell, who performed the ICL procedure in my area.

As soon as I got into my car, I immediately called Dr. Mitchell's office and made another appointment. At the initial appointment, Dr. Mitchell spent about 30 minutes with me explaining the entire procedure and told me I would be a candidate for the Visian ICL on my left eye and that I could have LASIK on my right eye. The reason I chose LASIK on my right eye is that the procedure is half the cost of Visian ICL and unfortunately, that did play a role in my decision. The whole process was flawless. I was even given the opportunity to speak with someone in his office who had the Visian ICL procedure done and she could not stop talking about how wonderful Visian ICL has been for her. I couldn't be more thrilled with my procedures and was just grateful an opportunity like this existed for me!



Before the surgeries my prescriptions were:

Left eye: -11.5

Right eye: -8.50

My prescriptions are now 20/20 for the left eye (which has the Visian ICL) and 20/25 for the right eye (LASIK).

How do the two procedures compare?

The LASIK procedure itself wasn't much different than the ICL procedure. Though they are very similar, the ICL procedure required more prepping and needed to be performed in a surgical environment with a small amount of anesthesia. The procedures themselves took about the same amount of time to perform and didn't feel differently to me.

How does the visual quality compare?

My ICL eye has incredible vision and I can see beautifully. It's truly amazing. I can also see clearly out of my LASIK eye, but both eyes had different prescriptions with the LASIK eye having more of astigmatism. I don't know how much astigmatism can be corrected during LASIK, but the Visian ICL lens without a doubt gives me a clear view all the time. With the Visian ICL when I look at something it is immediately in focus. With my LASIK eye, it can take a few seconds for things to come into focus. My LASIK eye is not as sharp as my Visian ICL eye. I definitely prefer my left - Visian ICL eye. I can see more clearly.

How did the recovery process compare?

When I was done with the Visian ICL, I could see 20/20 within hours, even with my eye dilated. Truly incredible! One difference with the ICL is that my eyes stayed dilated from the procedure for over 24 hours. But, after my eyes became undilated, everything was perfect. The recovery process with the LASIK took a bit longer. Things were blurry for quite a while and part of my eye was red for a couple of weeks. Life after receiving Visian ICL has been amazing! I can't believe I don't have to wake up in the morning and search for my glasses or put in my contacts. No more contact solutions! I can go workout and not have to worry about contacts or glasses. It's been a life saver!