



Seeing Well, Looking Good

Kerry Kiyohara finally took the plunge and decided on surgery to give him perfect vision. Aboard a small boat tossing about on the Pacific Ocean, he had just emerged from a dive that had proved less than completely satisfactory due to poor eyesight, discovering then that the crew had mislaid his glasses. "Without them, I was literally blind," says Kiyohara, the 46-year-old chief marketing officer for New City Mortgage K.K. "

An unabashed perfectionist, Kiyohara had already been researching LASIK surgery and the clinics around Tokyo. He contacted Dr. Ikuko Toda, founder and managing director of the Minamiaoyama Eye Clinic, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, having conducted tens of thousands of operations.

"The technology to carry out refractive surgery was originally developed in the United States about 20 years ago, and there are many advantages to the procedure," explains Dr. Toda, who was a research fellow at Harvard University for three years, after having specialized in eye surgery at Tsukuba University, Jikei University and Keio University.

"It works out to be less expensive over the long term than having frequently to replace your contact lens. The procedure can be completed for both eyes at the same time; and, because of the rapid recovery rate, busy people do not even need to take time off from work," she points out.

"I was nervous on the day of the surgery, but the staff helped me to relax," Kiyohara recalls. "The operating theater was spotless, the surgical team worked seamlessly, and Dr. Toda was very reassuring during the operation.

"It didn't hurt at all," he continues. "And immediately after the surgery, I was

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The procedure involves administering an anesthetic using eye drops, incising a flap on the outer layer of the eye and having an excimer laser reshape the cornea before replacing the flap. The operation is completed in a short time, no stitches are required and the eye simply heals itself.

Dr. Toda has carried out 6,000 corrective procedures herself, and its growing popularity has encouraged her to open clinics in Yokohama and Fukuoka. Her clients include actress Yoko Saito, as well as numerous other stars of the sporting, modeling and acting worlds.

He is also pleased that he did not opt for the clinic offering the cheapest procedure.

"I visited three clinics and this one definitely felt the best to me," Kiyohara says. "There are less expensive clinics around; but I told myself that when someone was going to be doing some work on my eyes, I did not want to go down the discount route."

Dr. Toda's priority is quality, she emphasizes. "We do not compromise at all on making sure the procedure is a success," she adds.

Many of Kiyohara's colleagues have expressed interest in the operation – particularly after noticing the change it has had on his appearance, with many remarking that he looks younger.

"There was no discomfort and I quickly returned to my normal lifestyle," he says. "And for the first time in my life I can buy sunglasses that I actually look cool in."

Kaleidoscope readers will receive ¥2,500 Off on LASIK consultation and complete eye exam.

**Toll-free: 0120-89-3810 E-mail: info@minamiaoyama.or.jp
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Minamiaoyama Eye Clinic Tokyo INFORMATION

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Contact us - By appointment only. Please call or e-mail us to schedule your examination and consultation which are required prior to the surgery.