

Health & FITNESS

Farsightedness can now be corrected by laser procedure

Nearsightedness and astigmatism aren't the only visual conditions able to be treated by laser corrective procedures. As of November 1998, when the FDA granted approval to treat farsightedness using the VisX STAR laser system, even those who depend upon eyewear for their farsightedness are now able to eliminate or greatly reduce their dependency on corrective lenses. The STAR laser is installed at Northeastern Eye Institute in Scranton, where well over a thousand procedures have already been performed on near-sighted patients since approval was granted in 1995. And now, patients in the Back Mountain area have access to convenient pre- and post-operative care at Northeastern Eye Institute's Shavertown office, formerly Back Mountain Eyecare Center.

David A. DeRose, M.D., who recently joined the staff of the Shavertown office, specializes in performing the latest refractive surgery procedures (PRK and LASIK) and Curtis Goodwin, O.D. is certified in providing pre- and post-operative care for both LASIK and PRK. "Until now, only those with nearsightedness and astigmatism could be helped," said DeRose. "It's exciting for those who are farsighted to now have a reliable option to correct their vision without lenses."

John T. LiVecchi, M.D., F.A.C.S., who introduced contemporary refractive surgery to Northeastern Pennsylvania, and Dr. Stephen Pascucci, are both board-certified ophthalmologists at Northeastern Eye Institute who have performed a large number of laser vision correction procedures. They share in the excitement felt by Dr. DeRose. "The clinical results with the laser treatment for farsightedness have been outstanding," said LiVecchi. "Follow-

ing the procedure, over 95 percent of the patients treated achieved 20/40 vision or better, the minimum level required to obtain a driver's license."

Doctors at Northeastern Eye also point out that this technology is not entirely new. "Until now, only those with nearsightedness and astigmatism could be helped. This technology, for farsightedness, now makes it possible to treat virtually half of the adult population that suffer from various refractive disorders," said Pascucci.

While there are several types of laser vision correction procedures being performed today, LASIK (Laser-In-Situ Keratomileusis) is by far the most preferred by ophthalmologists due to the amazing degree of precision, absence of pain and rapid recovery involved. As opposed to other modalities, LASIK is also favored for those with higher degrees of near- or farsightedness and offers instant gratification, since patients see clearly immediately following the procedure.

From start to finish, the whole procedure takes just a few minutes per eye to complete.

Nearsightedness and farsightedness are caused by a subtle malformation in the shape of the eye. Laser surgery offers a precise and painless way to re-shape the cornea, altering the focal point of the eye and allowing permanent vision corrections of, in nearly 95% of the cases, 20/40 or better. This means that following the procedure, patients can play sports, join the police or fire departments, or drive legally... all without the hindrances of glasses or contact lenses. An additional advantage is the money saved on eyewear that is no longer necessary.

Until 1990, the primary technique for visual correction was RK (Radial Keratotomy), a procedure which required metal or diamond blade incisions to be placed manually into the cornea. In 1983, a group of American ophthalmologists began utilizing the excimer laser to re-shape the cornea. This provided far more accurate and predictable results than manual methods. Excimer laser technology, used in the LASIK and PRK (Photorefractive Keratotomy) procedures, uses non heat-producing ultra-violet light to remove very small amounts of tissue from the surface of the eye, as in PRK, or from the inner layers of the cornea, as in the LASIK procedure, as it flattens the curvature of the cornea, allowing light rays entering the eye to properly focus on the retina.

Established in 1984, Northeastern Eye Institute has 11 ophthalmologists, 24 optometrists and a staff of 220 at 19 offices in the greater Northeastern Pennsylvania region, including the one at 170 Memorial Highway in Shavertown, making it the largest eye care facility of its kind in the area. Northeastern Eye Institute is the first facility of its kind to provide excimer laser surgery for the correction of nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. It has also been recognized as a leader in the specialized areas of cataract, glaucoma, cornea, refractive, retina and oculoplastic surgery. There is an ophthalmologist on call 24 hours a day, every day of the year to respond to eye emergencies and its Ambulatory Surgery Center located in Scranton is the only state-licensed, Medicare-approved outpatient facility in the area solely dedicated to eye surgery.

In order to determine whether or not you are a candidate for laser vision correction, contact an optometrist in your area or call 1-877-NEI-VISION for more information.

Orienteering at Frances Slocum

The Pocono Orienteering Club (POC) will hold its May meet jointly with the Sierra Club Sunday, May 16 at Frances Slocum State Park. Participants can register and start any time between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. The entry fee is \$5 per map and small groups such as families can use one map. Compasses can be rented for 50¢. Instruction is available at all times. Four courses will be available for varying skill levels. Events are held regardless of weather.

Recreational and competitive categories are available. Beginner courses remain on well-marked hiking trails. For more information, please contact meet director Lynn Aldrich, (675-8628).

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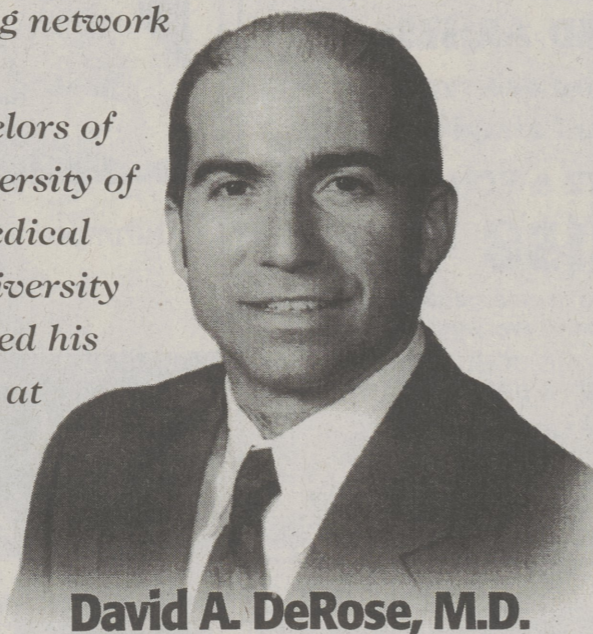
Introducing Our Newest M.D.

Northeastern Eye Institute is pleased to welcome David A. DeRose, M.D. to its expanding network of eyecare professionals.

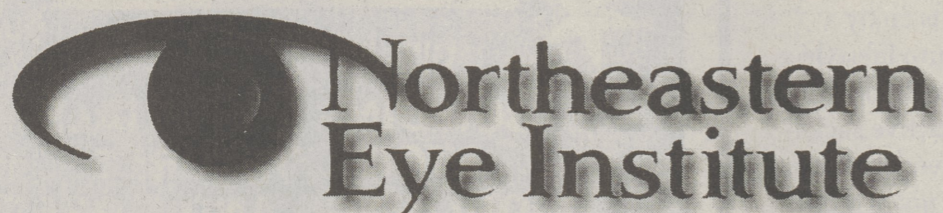
Dr. DeRose holds a bachelors of science degree from the University of Rochester and earned his medical degree from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia. He completed his internship in ophthalmology at Hahnemann University Hospital and a cornea and glaucoma fellowship at Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh. Dr.

DeRose specializes in treating glaucoma, diseases of the cornea, cataract surgery and the latest refractive surgery procedures (PRK and LASIK).

Dr. DeRose is currently seeing patients at Northeastern Eye Institute's Wilkes-Barre and Shavertown offices.



David A. DeRose, M.D.



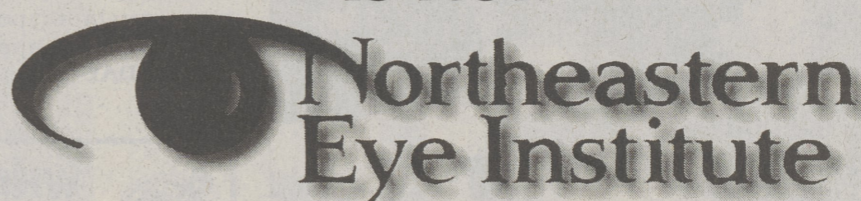
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Back Mountain Eye Care Center Is Now



Exciting things are happening at Back Mountain Eye Care Center.

Because of our recent merger with Northeastern Eye Institute — the largest eye care facility in Northeastern Pennsylvania — Dr. Curtis L. Goodwin can now offer his patients a full continuum of eye care services... from thorough eye exams, complete contact lens department and a full selection of fashion frames... to comprehensive Ophthalmic eye care.

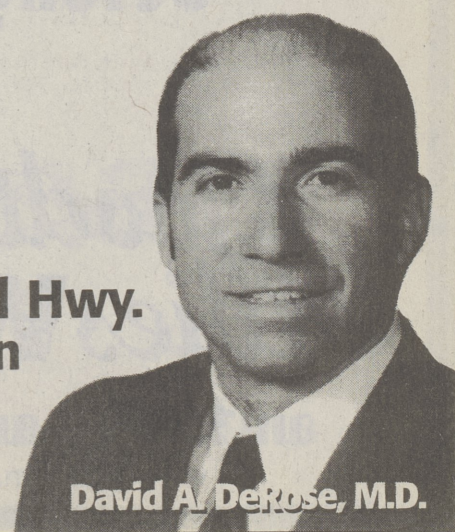
Northeastern Eye Institute has long been recognized as the leader in the specialized areas of cataract, glaucoma, cornea, refractive, retina and oculoplastic surgery. Together, Northeastern Eye and Back Mountain Eye Care offer you the best resources and value for safeguarding your precious eyesight.

And now joining Dr. Goodwin at Northeastern Eye Institute's Shavertown office is David A. DeRose, M.D. Dr. DeRose specializes in the latest refractive surgery procedures (PRK and LASIK), as well as treating glaucoma, diseases of the cornea and cataract surgery.

While our name may be changing, the faces remain the same. You can still be assured of the same personalized, professional care you have always received from Dr. Goodwin and the staff at Back Mountain Eye Care.



Curtis L. Goodwin, O.D.



David A. DeRose, M.D.

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