

After my first two surgeries on my right eye (CAT/IOLⁱ followed 16 days later by DSAEKⁱⁱ), I was in the same situation as you are now. My eyes were not working together, and I had waited so long to start the surgeries that my left eye was not good enough to support me while I waited for the surgeries on my left eye. I had my husband driving me everywhere for two solid months. I used my magnifiers heavily (both actual magnifiers for reading material and the magnifier that's built into Windows for computer work). I used a pirate's patch covering one eye or the other for the important stuff, and it depended on what I was doing at the time. To read, I had to use my right (surgery) eye without my glasses and to see distance (such as for watching my birds or TV) I needed my left eye with glasses. I didn't like having the patch directly covering my surgery eye as there was no air circulation and the eye just didn't feel comfortable when the patch was first removed. I finally figured out that I could use the elastic part that would normally go around your head to wrap around my glasses, effectively tying the patch to the outside of the eyeglass lens. I didn't remove the one lens after the surgery on my right eye because that just didn't work for me at all. I did try it a couple of times and always quickly put it back. Anyway, using the patch to cover one eye or the other when I had to be able to see what I was doing was a temporary solution for me. I didn't wear it all of the time, only when it was needed and it did help.

My doctor made me wait a full three months before he would consider the surgeries on my left eye. By then I was ready to kill something. I did get a new prescription at one month post DSAEK on the right eye, but as you pointed out the still diseased left eye was pulling down any good vision I was getting with the right eye. It was very frustrating to say the least. I STRONGLY advise anyone considering surgery and coming up with reasons to put it off to re-think your position. Do not wait until you no longer have one good eye to support you during this waiting game between surgeries on your two eyes. Having the surgery done sooner while you still have decent vision to rely on is the only way to go. I say this in retrospect with hindsight being 20/20 (if you'll pardon the pun).

I FINALLY had the surgeries on my left eye, again 16 days apart. All through the years as the Fuchs' progressed for me, I had no problems with blisters. Because my eyes were so bad when I finally started the surgeries, my vision went downhill rapidly during the 16 days between CAT/IOL and DSAEK surgeries in each eye, and the Fuchs' just accelerated beyond belief. I was surprised though when after all of the surgeries were done in both eyes my surgeon mentioned something about blisters. It seems that during those 16 days that I waited during the surgeries each eye got so bad that by the day of the DSAEK surgery on each, I had blisters forming. I wasn't aware of that, luckily for me, until the surgeon mentioned it. But this is another argument for "sooner rather than later". Some people wait a lot more than the 16 days I waited between the surgeries on each eye, and had I had to wait longer I surely would have felt the effect of the blisters.

I had some other problems immediately following the surgeries on my right eye (the first one). I had floaters and ghosting in that eye. Both of these were pretty bad to start. I feared that these problems would always be with me and prepared myself for the worse. Much to my amazement, both of those issues have cleared up with time. I still have a very slight ghosting when looking directly at lights (lighted signs, the TV, etc), but it's minor compared to what it was. I also still have a slight problem with headlights at night. I see the spikes, but no halos and the spikes are nothing like they were when I had Fuchs'. I'm hoping with time even that will lessen. I have been driving in conditions such as heavy rain, fog and bright, low-hanging sunlight and I have no problems at all anymore.

I sent an email to my cornea surgeon a week or two ago to update him on a follow-up appointment with my local Ophthalmologist (he let me go to her for that checkup as she's a whole lot easier for me to get to). I also told him of my drive home from the Ophthalmologist's that night. It was right around dusk and I drove through torrential rains. The drive was about 45 miles, mostly on an Interstate. I told him how I could see where the road was, I could clearly see the lines in the road; I could see all of the other cars

both in front of and behind me and I could tell what lanes they were all in. I told him that in the past that drive would have been a nightmare for me. I ended the email by saying simply "Thank you".

ⁱ CAT/IOL - Acronym for Cataract Removal and Replacement with Intraocular Lens.

ⁱⁱ DSAEK - A type of corneal transplant where only the inner layer (endothelium, Descmet's Membrane and a thin layer of the Stroma) are removed and replaced by the same layers from a donor's cornea. Sometimes called "Partial Transplant" because it does not completely remove and replace the cornea. Technically an Endokeratoplasty (EK). Recovery is quicker than a traditional Penetrating Keratoplasty (PK) with less potential for surgical complications.