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with *Our Donors*

Winter 2018

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Caring Connections

An update for Friends Supporters

Digital Marking System Improves Cataract Surgery at The Moncton Hospital!

As we age, the lens in our eye may become cloudy. This is called a cataract. Cataracts can be corrected by replacing the cloudy lens with an artificial lens, resulting in clear vision for the patient once more. This is a common procedure, which takes about 15 minutes. Physicians at The Moncton Hospital perform up to 1700 cataract surgeries a year.

Approximately 400 of these cataract patients also have an eye condition called an *astigmatism*, (*a curvature of the eye lens causing even further distortion and blurring of the vision*) and choose to have a specialized Toric lens that will correct both the cataract and the astigmatism at the same time.

An investment of \$92,000 from the Friends of The Moncton Hospital's 2016/2017 Campaign allowed for the purchase of this latest in digital marking technology for the Ophthalmology Clinic.

Previous to this, the surgeon did this manually using a measuring instrument and an ink marker to ensure accurate alignment on the eye. Markings must be exact to provide optimum visual outcomes for the patient, but they were subject to human error.

This digital cutting-edge technology reduces- *and in most cases eliminates* - the margin for error. The computer-assisted Toric marking system communicates precise measurements to the microscope used during the procedure, reducing time involvement and increasing vision sharpness and clarity for the patient.



Dr. Gilles Cormier, Ophthalmologist, entering a patient's lens measurements with MaryJo Paquet, Operating Room Technician (ORT)

Beth Black, Nurse Manager, Clinic B, says, "*the Toric marking system almost completely eliminates risk of error in correctly placing Toric lenses to ensure optimal vision results post-operatively. It also reduces time of surgery and makes the entire process much more efficient. The Ophthalmology team is very grateful to the Foundation for all their support.*"



Eye team (*left to right*) JaryJo Paquet, ORT, Evelyn Hoyt, RN, & Dr. Gilles Cormier, Ophthalmologist, inserting the Toric lens in patient, Sterling Connors.

