

before it contacts the implanted intraocular lens, a CO₂ laser is not preferred. On the other hand, the monochromatic red (6943 Å) wavelength from a ruby laser results in less energy absorption through the cornea and aqueous humor and as a result, will produce little, if any, irreparable damage to the peripheral fluids and tissues surrounding the light beam. In addition to the ruby laser, an argon laser (4880 Å and 5154 Å), a YAG laser, an Nd-YAG laser, or a helium-neon laser may also be used. In any event, the particular laser used is to be selected in conjunction with the identity of the pigment used in the colored sections of the intraocular lens to provide efficient, but safe, selective heating and resultant shrinkage of the colored, absorptive sections of the intraocular lens.

I claim as my invention:

1. A method for altering the corrective power of an implanted intraocular lens while positioned in an eye which comprises contacting a selected portion of the implanted lens with a laser beam at an intensity and for a time sufficient to alter the shape of the lens thereby altering its corrective power without substantially and permanently harming the eye.

2. A method for altering the corrective power of an implanted intraocular lens as in claim 1 wherein the selected portion of the implanted lens contacted with the laser beam is colored to permit selective absorption of the laser beam.

3. A method for altering the corrective power of an implanted intraocular lens as in claim 2 wherein the colored selected portion is positioned adjacent to the peripheral portion of the lens.

4. A method for altering the corrective power of an implanted intraocular lens as in claim 3 wherein the colored selective portion is a continuous concentric ring positioned adjacent to the outer edge of the lens.

5. A method for altering the corrective power of an implanted intraocular lens as in claim 3 wherein the colored selected portion is a plurality of discrete equally spaced apart colored sections.

6. A method for altering the corrective power of an implanted intraocular lens as in claim 1 wherein the lens is manufactured at least in part from a transparent, heat

shrinkable plastic, said laser beam contacting the heat shrinkable plastic.

7. An intraocular lens for implantation into an eye and capable of having its corrective power altered by a laser when positioned in the eye which comprises an optically clear central portion and a heat shrinkable plastic peripheral portion, said peripheral portion having a colored section to receive laser energy, said colored section, when exposed to laser energy being capable of altering the shape of and thus the corrective power of the intraocular lens.

8. An intraocular lens for implantation into an eye and capable of having its corrective power altered by a laser when positioned in the eye as in claim 7 wherein the colored section is a concentric heat shrinkable ring positioned adjacent to the edge of the lens.

9. An intraocular lens for implantation into an eye and capable of having its corrective power altered by a laser when positioned in the eye as in claim 8 wherein the optically clear center section is a flexible fluid filled chamber, the inner portion of the heat shrinkable ring is attached to the periphery of the fluid filled chamber and the outer portion of the heat shrinkable ring is attached to a rigid ring whereby contraction of the heat shrinkable ring changes the power of the optically clear center section.

10. An intraocular lens for implantation into an eye and capable of having its corrective power altered by a laser when positioned in the eye as in claim 7 wherein the intraocular lens comprises a pair of superimposed interconnected lens, said lens interconnected by the heat shrinkable plastic peripheral portion.

11. An intraocular lens for implantation into an eye and capable of having its corrective power altered by a laser when positioned in the eye as in claim 10 wherein the lenses are interconnected by a heat shrinkable plastic ring.

12. An intraocular lens for implantation into an eye and capable of having its corrective power altered by a laser when positioned in the eye as in claim 10 wherein the lenses are interconnected by a plurality of discrete spaced apart heat shrinkable plastic pillars.

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