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## **Procedure Could Eliminate Need For Reading Glasses**

Presbyopia Can Be Treated With New Procedure

Posted: 8:43 A.M. EDT March 13, 2007

INDIANAPOLIS – About 90 million Americans wear reading glasses to look at a newspaper, read a menu or make out numbers on a watch, but a new procedure could make that a thing of the past.

Presbyopia usually strikes adults when they reach their mid-40s, but Indianapolis surgeons are testing a device as thick as a sheet of paper that eliminates the need for reading glasses.

Mark Sullivan, 53, doesn't normally need glasses but needs reading glasses to make out small print.

"I've had to wear glasses for about 20 to 25 years, mostly for reading," Sullivan said.

Sullivan, an Indianapolis attorney, is the first patient in the Midwest to test a device that will allow him to get rid of the reading glasses.

AcuFocus is a micro-thin inlay designed to do away with the effects of presbyopia.

"It could potentially be a cure for presbyopia. The wonderful thing about it is it will work with everything," said Dr. Kevin Waltz, of Eye Surgeons of Indiana.

Waltz used a laser to make a tiny flap in Sullivan's right eye. A second machine implanted the inlay in the cornea.

Once in place, the flap was smoothed over the inlay with no needles or sutures involved. The entire process took about 10 minutes.

AcuFocus only lets focused light hit the retina, making close-up objects clear again.

"I'm going to go home, take a nap and keep my eyes covered and let them heal for the rest of the night. I'm expecting to read the paper in the morning without glasses," Sullivan said.

Seven patients received the inlay on Monday. Hoosiers can find out if they qualify for the procedure by calling 877-982-3858.