

Iris surgery allows him not to be “One-eyed dragon”
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Zheng Jun Xiong (aged 50) was a welder for more than 10 years. Because he was not using eye protection a piece of metal penetrated his right eye making him for more than 10 years a “One-eyed dragon”.

Zheng Jun Xiong said that when the metal piece entered his eye he immediately sought help from a General Practitioner, who told him that he did not have a problem and prescribed him some painkillers. When his condition did not improve, he went to the hospital for help and was told that as both his lens and its attachment were damaged he needed surgery.

Although the surgeon successfully removed the foreign object from his eye, the lens envelope could not be saved. The technology of that time did not allow doctors to implant a suitable man-made lens back into its original location.

Patients who have lost the lens can be fitted with corrective spectacles up to 1300 degrees to replace the lost lens. Zheng Jun Xiong found out that as the power of his eyes differed too much he would suffer dizziness and so he did not use such corrective spectacles.

However this brought him other problems. In recent years he often bumped into people on his right side and once was scolded by a young person. This was the result of his being poorly sighted in his right eye, and it was not done on purpose.

A few months ago Zheng Jun Xiong discovered that there was a new surgical procedure that would enable him to regain sight in his right eye. Today the sight in that eye is completely restored and he is in fact preparing to take a driving licence test.

In a recent operation, new technology enabled a man-made lens to be inserted behind his pupil thus giving him normal vision. Tan Tock Seng Hospital’s Cataract and Anterior Segment Reconstruction Consultant Dr Christopher Khng Yen Wei disclosed that before the introduction of this new procedure many ophthalmologists were not prepared to undertake iris related operations. Currently, anterior segment reconstruction includes surgery to repair the iris. When light is bright the iris will limit the amount of light passing through the pupil. Damage to the iris will result in loss of the ability to adjust and control the amount of light passing through the pupil.

But not all cases are those resulting from serious eye injury; some are complicated cataract cases. Dr Christopher Khng Yen Wei said that the iris damage of some cataract cases might have been a result of accidental surgical trauma from inexperienced surgeons or in complicated cases. In the past because not many doctors could undertake this procedure, patients with this condition

could only endure their problem. Today we have this new technique so these patients no longer need to endure their condition.

After acquiring it during training in America, Dr Christopher Khng Yen Wei introduced this new technique to Singapore. He said “ Probably because this procedure is not widely practised and is highly specialised, not many doctors recommend it as a choice for patients.”

Dr Khng said that up to the present more than 100 patients had undergone complex anterior segment operations with more than 80% of them having operations done on their iris with very good results.