

STAAR® Surgical congratulates U.S. Bobsled Pilot Steve Holcomb on leading his team to first gold medal in 62 years

Visian® Implantable Collamer® Lens™ Gives Bobsledder Ability to Continue in Sport, Win Olympic Gold

MONROVIA, Calif., March 1, 2010 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- STAAR Surgical Company (Nada: STAA) a leading developer, manufacturer and marketer of minimally invasive ophthalmic products, including the Visian® Implantable Collamer® Lens™ (ICL), today congratulated Steve Holcomb for leading the United States Bobsled team on Saturday evening to its first gold medal win in 62 years.

In 2008, Holcomb, who was extremely nearsighted and suffered from the degenerative eye condition keratoconus, had a STAAR® Visian® ICL implanted in each eye to correct the nearsightedness. Immediately, his vision improved from a reported 20/500 to 20/20, and he was able to resume his quest for Olympic gold.

"It got to a point in 2008 where I couldn't see anymore," said Holcomb in an interview with NBC made available on the network's Olympics site and through the link: <http://bit.ly/VisianGold> (US only)

"They couldn't make contacts strong enough."

See video "Steven Holcomb regains his vision" under: <http://bobsled.teamusa.org/video>

"I went to my coach and told him I had to quit," Holcomb said in the same NBC interview. "I had to retire because it was becoming a safety issue, I can't see anymore."

"They put a lens inside my eyes," Holcomb explained in the NBC interview. "It's basically a contact lens inside my eye, right behind my iris. It was about ten minutes, and as soon I was up I could see 20/20. It's been pretty incredible ever since and literally a year later I'm a world champion."

The Visian ICL is the new more flexible alternative to LASIK. It typically improves visual acuity to 20/20, with excellent visual quality, and while it is designed to be a permanent solution for vision correction, unlike LASIK, the Visian ICL can be removed if a patient's vision changes or if it needs to be removed or replaced - patient satisfaction is extremely high. The lens is made of Collamer, a lens material that is highly compatible with the body's immune system, and is available exclusively through STAAR Surgical. The Visian ICL has been implanted in more than 150,000 eyes worldwide and has established a proven track record of safety offering a wider treatment range for myopia than LASIK and PRK procedures. The Visian ICL is implanted in front of the natural lens and then gently tucked behind the iris (colored part of the eye) the entire procedure takes approximately 20 minutes and once implanted, no additional maintenance is needed.



"The worldwide employees of STAAR have followed Steve's career since we learned of his choice to undergo the quick procedure to implant the Visian ICL about two years ago," said Barry G. Caldwell, President & CEO. "We were thrilled when Steve piloted the U.S. team to a World Championship title a year ago, but nothing matches the excitement of Saturday night when Steve ended a 62-year drought for the U.S. in fourman bobsledding. Our Visian ICL enabled Steve to regain his vision and we congratulate him and the entire U.S. Bobsled and Skeleton Federation on this tremendous display of courage, leadership and victory."

To learn more about the Visian ICL please contact us on 01342 306020 or email us at enquiries@centreforsight.com.

