The primary goal of the JOURNAL OF REFRACTIVE SURGERY is to publish peer reviewed articles on all aspects of refractive surgery. Although we are the Official Journal of the International Society of Refractive Keratoplasty, we welcome articles from members and non-members alike. We are interested in publishing clinical and research articles on refractive surgery; brief reports about interesting cases, complications, or new instruments; guest editorials; and extensive single subject review articles.

We would also like to establish a lively dialogue among refractive surgeons regarding controversial topics, or critical remarks about articles previously published, in a “Letters to the Editor” section. Another possibility would be an “Ask the Experts” section where our readers could ask for suggestions on the management of difficult or unusual refractive surgery problems or complications.

This issue contains Part I of our first major single subject review article, by Dr. George Waring, entitled, “The Changing Status of Radial Keratotomy for the Correction of Myopia.” In the initial part of this review, Dr. Waring discusses the changing indications for radial keratotomy since Lans first studied the effects of radial incisions in rabbits in 1898. Part I includes a historical review of the contributions by Lans, Sato, and Fyodorov, and a summary of the American contributions in the form of clinical and laboratory studies and improved instrumentation. Also included is a discussion of the reasons patients elect to have this surgery and guidelines for patient selection and informed consent.

The major portion of this extensive review article will be published as Part II in our July/August issue. This includes a detailed discussion of the evolution of the surgical technique and instrumentation for performing radial keratotomy as well as comments about data collection, predictability, complications, and a comparison of some published results. Dr. Waring’s review includes 125 references and represents the most complete and up to date review of the subject. Since the number of courses teaching radial keratotomy and the number of patients having the procedure are both rapidly increasing, we feel this is a particularly appropriate time to publish this well-documented review article on the subject.

With this article, Dr. Waring has set a very high standard for other potential author’s of review articles. We hope to receive other single subject reviews of this nature for periodic publication. Possible topics include correction of astigmatism, keratomileusis, epikeratophakia, and use of alloplastic corneal inlays.

Please communicate your suggestions to us and thank you for your support.

James J. Salz, M.D.
Editor