

'My life's been destroyed by laser eye op': Patients say surgery has ruined their sight

HUNDREDS of people say their lives have been blighted by devastating laser eye surgery side effects.

By **Simon Lennon** / Published 6th April 2014



FALSE HOPE: A woman getting her eyes lasered [GETTY]

TV adverts from high street firms such as Optical Express promise better sight quickly and safely.

But some patients are being left with dry, sore eyes, tunnel vision, detached retinas and even blindness.

Sasha Rodoy says she suffered irreparable eye damage during surgery.

She now runs an online advisory service [mybeautifuleyes.co.uk](http://www.dailystar.co.uk/mybeautifuleyes.co.uk) (<http://www.dailystar.co.uk/mybeautifuleyes.co.uk>).

The London-based campaigner said: "Until I came along the industry kept this scandal hidden with gagging orders signed in return for compensation.

"But since I have decided to speak out I have been inundated with people in the same boat.

"There is no legislation protecting them, which is why I am trying to get the law changed."

Freelance camera technician Craig Mellor had Lasik laser surgery after visiting an Optical Express store in Manchester.

The 42-year-old suffered a complication after the first op and needed corrective surgery the next day for a crease in his left eye.

But his condition worsened and five years on, after several more ops, he has virtually no sight in his left eye and limited vision in his right.

Doctors have now told him nothing can be done to restore his sight.

He said: "It's really affected my career.

"I have contemplated suicide."

Craig complained to the General Medical Council which is investigating and he has started legal action against Optical Express.

Picture researcher Michelle Parsons paid £4,000 so she could stop wearing contact lenses.

She had surgery after visiting an Optical Express in Thurrock, Essex, but two years on and two operations later still has side effects.

The 29-year-old, from Kent, says she has black shapes floating across her vision and needs daily drops for dry eyes.

Michelle, who is also taking legal action, said: "My life has been destroyed."

Professor Harminder Dua, president of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, said: "I get a lot of referrals of people who have had problems.

"Self-regulation has not worked."

Optical Express said it could not comment on individual cases but said 99% of patients surveyed said they would recommend the firm to family and friends.

It said its complication rate was very low, 0.7% over 27,000 eye operations, with 96% of those patients getting 20/20 vision or better.

It said more than 800 optical industry workers had undergone surgery with Optical Express in the past year, adding: "We are committed to delivering the highest standards of clinical governance and would welcome any meaningful dialogue that will further improve the industry."

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Freelance camera technician Craig Mellor