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**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Toll-free Hotline Helps Eye Surgery Patients Left without Care by Recent Clinic Closings**

**SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA, MAY 22, 2001** — Laser eye surgery has become the most accepted procedure for permanently correcting refractive vision problems. More and more people are selecting LASIK surgery so they can eliminate their dependence on glasses or contact lenses. This has led to a proliferation of LASIK surgery centers and a rise in national chains offering low cost LASIK surgery.

But, successful LASIK surgery is more than the procedure alone. To ensure the best surgical outcome, it is critical that patients receive comprehensive post-operative care to ensure that their eyes are healing properly and that any complications are treated immediately. Unfortunately, many Bay Area laser eye clinics have closed due to dwindling profits. While this has enabled laser eye corporations to preserve their business interests, it has left thousands of Bay Area patients without essential post-operative care.

"These patients run the risk of developing complications that could have long-term affects on their vision," said Jay Bansal, MD, medical director of LaserVue Eye Centers.

As a public service, LaserVue Eye Center is offering a toll-free hotline that patients can call for information and a free referral to an experienced ophthalmologist or optometrist skilled in post-operative LASIK care.

By calling the toll-free number, **888.527.3745**, patients can direct their questions to a live person, obtain recommendations about follow-up care and receive a referral to a doctor in their area.

The hotline is also a way to help educate people about the importance of continuing care after the surgery is performed. "There's a misconception that once the surgery is performed, that's the end of the treatment," explained Dr. Bansal. "But that's when complications can set in. Our eyes are precious, and it's important to make sure that they're healing properly."

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*LaserVue Eye Center is a local Bay Area corrective vision surgery provider specializing in the LASIK procedure. Since 1996, LaserVue's experienced ophthalmologists have performed over 14,000 procedures on Bay Area residents. LaserVue utilizes state-of-the-art technology and is one of the few LASIK centers to use the new VISX 3D tracking laser. For more information, call 888.527.3745 or visit [www.laservue.com](http://www.laservue.com).*