

Ophthalmologist offers new lenses

New advances in intraocular lens technology and nationwide studies including a local ophthalmologist are offering cataract patients increased benefits following surgery.

An Alvin-Angleton ophthalmologist, Dr. K. Broderick Stolte, has been named a core investigator for three intraocular lens manufacturers. As an investigator, Dr. Stolte is approved to implant new soft, foldable lenses. He then documents his results through core studies for manufacturers to submit to the Food and Drug Administration. Stolte is now participating in advanced programs for several lens companies.

One of three investigators in the Houston-Brazoria County area for a large lens manufacturer, Stolte is licensed to implant a number of the company's soft lenses, a program he has been involved with for about two years.

As the only surgeon in the Houston-Alvin-Angleton area, and one of only three licensed investigators in Texas for a second manufacturer, Stolte has been involved in that company's core studies for more than one year.

Stolte is also one of three investigators in the area licensed to implant soft, foldable lenses manufactured by another leading lens company.

"These new lenses are exciting in bringing the small incision cataract surgery technique to fruition," said Stolte. "New materials are creating improved optical re-

sults, and many of these new materials are innovative in design and concept.

"For instance, one manufacturer is introducing a lens that is foldable and can be inserted through a very small incision. As it reaches body temperature and/or makes contact with the fluid in the eye, it expands," Stolte said.

Small incision cataract surgery (phacoemulsification) allows the surgeon to work through a much smaller incision when removing a cataract. "These foldable lenses are compatible with the technique since the incision can remain small when inserting the lens," Stolte said.

During cataract surgery, the eye's natural lens is removed, and a new focusing device must be used in order that light rays can be properly focused on the retina. Once these rays are focused, they are carried by the optic nerve to the brain and translated into what we know as sight.

"Patients undergoing small incision cataract surgery have fewer physical and visual restrictions following surgery," he said. "Although not every surgery patient is a candidate for the soft, foldable lenses, I have been very pleased with the post-surgical results my patients have experienced," Dr. Stolte said.

Stolte has offices in both Alvin and Angleton, and has practiced in the Brazoria County area for approximately four years.