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Instead of lasers: new eye treatment

CK or Conductive Keratoplasty is a new corrective eye treatment for long sight which does not involve cuts or incisions to the eyes. Success in correcting long sightedness is said to be 97 per cent, and the treatment is being offered, in private clinics, as an alternative to lasers.

The procedure takes less than 5 minutes and results are usually immediate, though some people experience a slight grittiness in the eye. More than 20,000 treatments have been performed worldwide, say the practitioners, with no serious complications or infection so far.

How does it work? CK involves the application of high-frequency radiowaves through the thin tip of a handheld instrument. The tip is inserted at various spots around the periphery of the cornea, shrinking the tissue and altering the cornea's shape to improve vision.

Treatment with CK can eliminate the need to wear reading glasses for the 18 million men and women who wear glasses due to advanced age. The technique was developed by Dr David Allamby who runs FOCUS Laser Vision, with clinics in Bolton, Manchester and London's Harley Street.

The cost is from £1250 per eye, and it will be some time before it's available on the NHS. See the website **www.focusclinics.com** or telephone 0845 5000 500 for further information. A free consultation and eye test is offered to potential clients.