

## **MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS, 1 FEBRUARY 2003**

### **A sight for poor eyes**

A PIONEERING treatment allowing long-sighted people to discard their reading glasses has been used for the first time in this country.

Conductive keratoplasty (CK) uses radio waves to reshape the cornea and take 10 years off the patient's eyesight.

Dr David Allamby, medical director of FOCUS Laser Vision in Manchester, is the only surgeon in Britain with a portable machine so far.

His first patients were Rita Thomas, from New Mills, and Howard Locket, from Preston, who had the '1,000-per-eye treatment at Clough's Opticians in Bolton. The technique is already used at 150 centres in America, and Dr Allamby is planning to start treatments at London's Harley Street in the next few months.

He said: "Here we have been very backward. While laser surgery has proved successful for the short-sighted, there was nothing really effective for the long-sighted.

### **Cornea**

"For middle-aged people it's wonderful. It can give you a vital 'turn-back-the-clock' effect to take you to the end of your career.

"People are attracted by the fact that there is no laser or needle. Already, I've had a lot of calls from people wanting the treatment."

The technique works by reshaping the curvature of the cornea by shrinking the ring of collagen spots around it.

It is much more effective than laser surgery on the long-sighted and takes only five minutes.

Many patients see an immediate improvement, but it takes a few weeks to take full effect.

Dr Allamby will carry out the treatments in Bolton and at a base in Manchester yet to be decided.