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LASIK Surgeon Charged with Negligence

Doctor Refuses To Speak With Troubleshooter

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SAN DIEGO -- The California attorney general's office has filed an accusation against the license of San Diego LASIK surgeon Dr. Glenn Kawesch, the 10News Troubleshooter reported.

Video



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The complaint charges Kawesch with "gross negligence" in the care and treatment of a patient. It charges Kawesch with "repeated negligent acts" in his treatment of five patients. It also charges Kawesch with "dishonest and corrupt acts" involving his settlement of a civil complaint alleging he altered medical and surgical charts and fabricated various test results.

In 1997, Kawesch settled that case, denying liability, but the agreement excluded him from participating in Medicare, Medicaid and the CHAMPUS program for four years.

The attorney general's complaint asks for the "revoking" or "suspending" of Kewesch's physician and surgeon's license.

Dr. Kawesch would not talk with the Troubleshooter about the accusation. But his attorney, Michael Lipman, said in a fax: "Dr. Kawesch denies the allegations in the Accusation and contends that his medical treatment was

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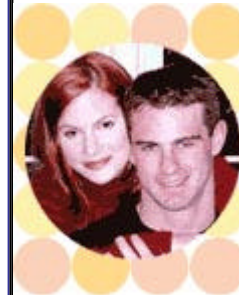
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appropriate in all respects. We intend to vigorously defend against the Accusation and believe that we will ultimately prevail."

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has set up a [Web site](#) to help consumers learn about LASIK and decide if they are good candidates for the surgery.

Dr. Robert Maloney, a top rated Los Angeles LASIK surgeon, spends one day a week correcting LASIK surgery mistakes by other surgeons.

Dr. Maloney has put together a list of the 10 ways to choose a LASIK surgeon:

1. Find a doctor by getting referrals from other doctors or from patients who have had laser vision correction.
2. Don't be fooled by fancy advertisements about a particular laser center. Choose the doctor, not the laser center. Find out who will actually do your procedure, then ask about that doctor's qualifications (board certification, special training).
3. Choose a doctor who has done at least 5,000 LASIK surgeries. What a doctor doesn't know can hurt you.
4. Ask for information on your doctor's complication rates, during surgery. If your doctor won't tell you, find another one. For top surgeons, the figure is three in 1,000.
5. Ask what measures are taken to prevent infection. Look for a center with a sterile or dust free operating room. Make sure that disposable parts are not reused. Insist that your eye be thoroughly sterilized. Also insist that the surgical instruments be sterilized before your surgery to eliminate the risk of transmission of HIV or hepatitis.
6. Beware of advertisement pushing "low cost" surgery. Discount surgery is as good as a discount parachute. The potential savings are not worth the risk of receiving less than expert care.
7. Expect to see very well after LASIK, but don't expect to see perfectly. Each patient gets a slightly different result. The best surgeon in the world can't guarantee 20/20 vision. As with any surgery, results are as individual as each patient. Beware of any doctor who promises 20/20 vision.
8. If you feel like you're getting a hard sell, you probably are. Go elsewhere. You're not buying a car -- this is real surgery.
9. Choose a doctor who is a fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Fellows must pass a rigorous board certification exam and conform to a strict code of ethics.
10. While you investigate, don't lose sight of the benefits: for most people a lifetime of bad vision can be cured in five minutes. LASIK surgery had improved the eyesight of millions of people around the world.

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