



New Laser Turns Brown Eyes Blue

It reads like a sci-fi novel: You pay thousands to a doctor, he quickly lasers your eyeballs, and you walk out the door with soon-to-be blue eyes—permanently. Mere minutes ago, they were forever brown.

Frightening? Oh, yes. But out of the realm of possibility? Not quite.

QUIZ: Are You Satisfied with Your Face?

A Laguna Beach-based doctor, Dr. Gregg Homer of Stroma Medical, says he can turn brown eyes blue with new laser technology called Lumineyes. The experimental procedure takes a mere 20 seconds, just long enough to alter the tissue of your iris (brown eyes hide blue pigment underneath), and you're done. Brand new baby blues!

No vision loss. No follow-ups. Just a price tag of \$5,000, and a few weeks until your eyes slowly morph into their new shade of blue—ample time to explain to your mother that you didn't like the eye color she gave you. There's a conversation you never imagined having.

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If it sounds too good to be true, you might be right. The jury is still out on this one—big time—as it's still in testing after a decade of research. "I would be very cautious and concerned about permanent, serious sequelae [abnormality following injury] like glaucoma and light sensitivity," says ophthalmologist Christopher T. Coad, M.D., F.A.C.S. "At this point, colored contacts seem to be the better option."

If you're willing to take the risk, brown-eyed gals overseas, you'll have first dibs if and when it's a go, as Homer plans to launch abroad within the next 18 months or so. American blue-eyed-wannabes, you'll have to wait a few years.

No word on whether other colors can be created as well. So for now, colored contacts will have to do. Or better yet... self-acceptance! There's a lot to be said for loving the eyes you were born with, after all. Beautiful and uniquely yours—just what mama gave you.

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