



SVETI VID

FIRST AWARD IN EUROPE FOR TREATING AMBLYOPIA IN children

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World experts in ophthalmology recognized brilliant results of Special Hospital SVETI VID achieved by laser correction of refractive error in pre-school children with amblyopia, which could not have been corrected with glasses or contact lenses. For this achievement, SVETI VID was awarded with first prize.

Special Hospital SVETI VID has proved as an authority and leader in ophthalmology, giving its contribution in treating ocular diseases among adults, and especially in sensitive pediatric age...

“It must be wonderful feeling to wake up, open eyes and look at the world with clear vision” - are the most common words said by those who wake up in the morning with blurred vision, and who desperately look for glasses or contacts, without hope to ever see clear. There is incredibly huge number of parents who were told to wait with solving the amblyopia of their children. “You should wait, it is the regular way how we do it”, is what parents were mostly advised and what they actually did, without being aware of terrible consequences their children will face later.

Due to waiting, children lost the opportunity to solve amblyopia in time, as well as the chance to improve the quality of their lives forever, since most of the children left amblyopic, or even blind! While the world ophthalmology was constantly moving forward, developing and offering new methods and solutions, ophthalmology in this part of Europe was going backwards. Fortunately, Special Hospital SVETI VID was established with the idea to oppose old and conservative ways and to find solutions for many visual impairments considered “unsolvable”. The most eminent ophthalmology experts were gathered in SVETI VID, in order to contribute to development

Left up and down: Professionals in SVETI VID take special care of treating pre-school children with amblyopia, that could not be corrected with glasses and contact lenses. On photographs are defectologist Marija Milicevic with little patient Veljko Damcevic.



of ophthalmology in this part of Europe, by changing the old diagnostic procedures, introducing the new approaches and providing new surgical solutions, many times presented and awarded on congresses worldwide.

THE CENTER FOR REFRACTIVE SURGERY: World ophthalmology has recognized Special Hospital SVETI VID as the first and leading center for refractive surgery not only in this region, but also among other European and world most

appreciated institutions. Despite many efforts of certain ophthalmological groups to obstruct every contemporary and new ophthalmological approach, ready to even close the door of this renowned hospital, as we found out from general director **Svetozar Dragovic**, SVETI VID mastered once again by winning the first prize on congress held in Belgrade, February 2018. The ESCRS (European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons) recognized and awarded Special Hospital SVETI VID with the first prize for using excimer laser in treating

amblyopia in pre-school children. This award is of a great importance for SVETI VID, since it proves that the modern methods used in treating pediatric amblyopia, criticized by conservative circles, are justified and highly appreciated in world ophthalmology! The medical director, dr **Marina Dragovic** received this outstanding award. The award proves that the world recognizes excellent results achieved by laser refractive error correction in pre-school children with amblyopia, which could have not been corrected with glasses or contact lenses. This is not a coincidence, since right here in SVETI VID started first laser refractive error correction over 20 years ago. During more than 2 decades, SVETI VID achieved amazing results in refractive procedures, obtained cutting-edge technology, laser of superb precision, safety and speed, innovative technology with WOW effect, named for joyful exclamation immediately after the procedure – “WOW, I can see”!!! As the chief of pediatric department in Special Hospital SVETI VID, Prof. dr. **Rudolf Autrata** explains that it is a very advanced superficial laser procedure, which is painless, prompt, safe, touch-free, without flap making and without side effects, very precise (6



Prof. dr Rudolf Autrata, winner of many world awards, chief of pediatric ophthalmology department in Special Hospital SVETI VID claims that many ocular problems can be successfully treated in early childhood.

dimension control of laser beam) with pristine and transparent cornea immediately after the procedure.

VISION DEVELOPMENT IS THE MOST INTENSIVE UP TO THE AGE OF 5:

Between the age of 3 months – 5 years, vision development is the most intensive, after which it continues in a moderate pace until the age of 8. This is the age crucial for full visual development – binocular vision, and if there are any visual impairments (congenital cataract, corneal opacities, refractive error,...) the light will be prevented from reaching the eye and the images that child will see, will be blurred. Similar situation is present when there are refractive errors (near and severe far-sightedness and astigmatism) that were not successfully corrected.

The best results are achieved when parents and pediatric ophthalmologists react promptly and in time. A forceful effort to reach optimal visual acuity starts from the very first moment when the child is born, rather than enrolling into elementary school. Parents are obliged to react if they notice that their child experiences anomalies, such as: corneal opacities, “white pupil”, crossed eye, squinting, moving objects closer to the eyes than necessarily and similar alarming signs. Most of these anomalies are successfully treated in early childhood, because this is the period when treatment has the greatest success, no matter if it is congenital cataract, glaucoma or refractive error, warns Prof. dr Autrata. It is extremely important to understand specialized pediatric ophthalmologists who are devoted to treatment of amblyopia in children, who say that traditional approach is wrong, because it is too late to suggest the first ophthalmic examination when child enters elementary school (at the age of 8). This results in missing diagnose and treatment in time, letting child remain amblyopic forever.

EXCIMER LASER – NEW AGE IN OPHTHALMOLOGY:

Refractive surgery in children, especially laser correction, is applied in world for more than 20 years. In pre-school children, the refractive error procedures are done when conventional glasses and contacts do not achieve satisfying visual acuity. Essential goal of laser procedure in children is not “removing” glasses or contact lenses, but treating amblyopia. Delaying laser procedure after the age of 18 is reasonable only if the full visual acuity is obtained, and laser enables getting rid of dependency on glasses or contact lenses.

However, if refractive error was not corrected with glasses or contacts, because the patient was not able to wear them, and therefore full visual acuity was not reached at the early age, waiting for laser procedure up to the age of 18 will have no results in achieving desired visual acuity. If the child experiences high risk factors for amblyopia, such as uncorrected refractive error, significant difference in refraction between eyes (anisometropia), when clear image cannot be gained by wearing glasses or contacts because of the lack of compliance, or in children with special needs when the communication is difficult, in these situations laser refractive procedure is the only possibility to prevent amblyopia.

Amblyopia is the most important medical indication for laser procedure in children, which permanently solves and diminishes the problem, and enables children and parents to improve the quality of their lives.

The plan of refractive correction depends on the quality and thickness of the cornea, as well as the age. Precise measurements define a model that will be corrected by laser. Topography and tomography of cornea are crucial diagnostic procedures in determining the quality of cornea and achieving perfect results. “Parents do not need to be afraid of laser procedure”, claims Prof. dr Autrata, “because Special Hospital SVETI VID is equipped with up-to-date EXCIMER LASER in surgical environment, with highly-educated and skilled surgical team, including the anaesthesiologist, that all together ensure the highest level of safety and effectiveness of the procedure.”

CLEAR VISION LEADS TO QUALITY LIFE OF CHILDREN:

Laser refractive procedure relieves young ones from visual and social isolations, providing them with quality life. In case of strabismus (crossed eyes), caused by uncorrected high refractive error, laser procedure simultaneously solves both refractive error and strabismus. Excimer laser also has a therapeutic use, in treatment of corneal irregularities, superficial opacities, corneal scars, dystrophy,... It is a big step for children since most of them treated in pre-school age enrolls in regular schools, instead of schools for visually impaired, which was the case in the past, due to uncorrected refraction and congenital cataract surgery, when these children were unnecessarily left amblyopic.

By virtue of Special Hospital SVETI VID, parents can finally provide their children with a proper ophthalmic examination, and early detection of various visual impairments, even at earliest age. **S**



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Svetozar Dragovic, general director of Special Hospital SVETI VID established in Belgrade prestigious clinic which is the leader in ophthalmology in region and in the world.



Luxurious space of Special Hospital SVETI VID – special place belongs to showcase with numerous awards and prizes.

AWARDS REPRESENTING *quality*

In Special Hospital SVETI VID, a lot of performed procedures were a guide, even to the world ophthalmology, which was proven by receiving the awards by the most eminent authorities in ophthalmology. SVETI VID has already long ago become the address where patients from Europe and the whole world are referred to. Excellent results in performing the new laser technology SmartSurfACE/Smart puls laser surgery, drew a lot of attention and recognizable acceptance by expert boards in ophthalmology. Besides the prize received in February 2018, Special Hospital SVETI VID received another awards for excellent results in laser refractive procedures performed in amblyopic patients, that could not be corrected with standard glasses and contact lenses. Recently, this hospital was awarded in Geneva with “Diamond star” for continuous quality, expertise and dedication to patients. Prof. dr Rudolf Autrata, as a member of SVETI VID, holds a record in winning awards in pediatric ophthalmology in Rome, Paris, Barcelona,... for his work. In Mumbai 2008, Special Hospital SVETI VID won the first prize for anterior segment surgery, along with one of the European most renowned ophthalmologist and permanent member of SVETI VID Prof. dr. **Pavel Rozsival** and dr. **Marina Dragovic**, for innovative cataract surgery through the artificial cornea. The same year, outstanding team of SVETI VID performed revolutionary surgery, which made the patient see again, after 30 years of darkness.



The genuine confirmation of victory of revolutionary ideas over obsolete approaches in ophthalmology took place in Belgrade, February 2018, on the 22nd congress of ESCRS (European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons) when medical director dr Marina Dragovic received the first award.