**Telescope in Eye?**

([www.karmayog.org](http://www.karmayog.org)) (01.10.2013)

(<http://www.centreforsight.com/procedures/vision-correction/lens-implants/centrasight-implant>)

(<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/03/130321221315.htm>)

Age related Macular Degeneration reduces central vision. However it does not harm peripheral vision. What if we could enable the use of peripheral vision to compensate for central vision? That is the thinking behind telescope implant into eye, to treat AMD.

The treatment involves replacing the natural lens in eye with Implantable Miniature Telescope (IMT), just like in a cataract surgery. This treatment of course takes away peripheral vision, since it uses peripheral vision for central vision. Hence this treatment is performed only in one eye, so that one can use the peripheral vision in other eye for peripheral visual activity.

However the surgery is not for everyone and in keeping with FDA guidelines potential candidates must be 75 years of age or older, have irreversible dry AMD and no longer be a candidate for drug treatment. The guidelines also exclude those who have had previous cataract surgery in the eye to be implanted.

After the IMT implantation, patients participate in an extensive rehabilitation program that involves training them to effectively use the device so that they are able to use the peripheral vision of the other eye to compensate for loss of peripheral vision in eye with the AMD. Rehabilitation post surgery takes about six months to a year.



The IMT is a very small lens as and can fit on top of single finger as seen above. After all it should be remembered that it fits into eye.

IMT has been approved only in 2010 as for AMD and it costs around $ 15000 per implant in USA. Very few such transplants have happened, but results are encouraging.