

Casebeer Award

Dr. Amar Agarwal



The Casebeer Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the research and development of refractive surgery.

Amar Agarwal, MD is the pioneer of phakonit, which is phaco with a needle incision technology. This technique became popularized as bimanual phaco, microincision cataract surgery (MICS), or microphaco. He is the first to remove cataracts through a 0.7-mm tip with the technique called microphakonit. He has also discovered no-anesthesia cataract surgery and FAVIT, a new technique to remove dropped nuclei. Building on the simple idea of using an aquarium fish pump to increase the fluid into the eye in bimanual phaco and coaxial phaco has helped prevent surge. This created the basis of various techniques of forced infusion for small incision cataract surgery.

Dr. Agarwal is also the first surgeon to implant a new mirror telescopic IOL (LMI) for patients suffering from AMD. He has also been the first in the world to implant a glued IOL, in which a PC-IOL is fixed in an eye without any capsules using fibrin glue. The Malyugin ring for small pupil cataract surgery was also modified by him as the "Agarwal modification" of the Malyugin ring for miotic pupil cataract surgeries with posterior capsular defects. He has also developed a new turnaround technique for intrastromal ring implantation, wherein a false channel is created by the femtosecond laser.

Dr. Agarwal's videos have won many awards at the film festivals of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery. He has also written more than 50 books that have been published in various languages, including English, Spanish and Polish.

At his center, Dr. Agarwal trains doctors from all over the world in phaco, bimanual phaco, LASIK and retina. He heads Dr. Agarwal's group of eye hospitals, which has 30 eye hospitals. He is also professor of ophthalmology at Ramachandra Medical College in Chennai, India.