

Ashton Bowers
Patient Testimonial
Storm Eye Institute

Ashton Bowers was just six weeks old when his mother realized that the small dot in his eye was larger than it had been two weeks earlier. The new mother worried that the tiny imperfection would cause her son to be blind. Ashton's parents turned to the experts at the Albert Florens Storm Eye Institute at the Medical University of South Carolina for answers where he was diagnosed with a congenital cyst on his iris, an extremely rare and difficult condition to treat.

Extremely serious if left untreated, cysts like Ashton's can grow and cover the entire surface of the eye, resulting in blindness. Ashton's cyst had already caused him to develop glaucoma, a cataract and amblyopia, or "lazy eye". The team of eye care specialists at Storm Eye Institute went into immediate action to save his precious sight.

Specialists in the areas of pediatric, cataract and cornea services at Storm Eye Institute spent the next year working to save Ashton's eyesight. First, Richard Saunders, MD, aspirated and froze the cyst in an attempt to stop its growth, but the cyst proved especially resistant to this form of treatment. After two such attempts, cornea specialist David Vroman, MD, performed surgery to successfully remove the growth, resolving the glaucoma in the process. Afterward, Ed Wilson, MD, pediatric cataract specialist and chair of Storm Eye Institute, removed the cataract and replaced Ashton's lens. Today, Dr. Saunders is treating Ashton for amblyopia and is optimistic about his prospects for a successful recovery.

Ashton's eye was saved, the cataract is gone, the glaucoma is resolved and he has vision in his eye. Ashton's mother and father are very thankful that they came to Storm Eye Institute. "We are so fortunate to have Storm Eye Institute here in South Carolina. Without the expert care that Ashton received from all of the doctors, Ashton would have lost his eye. I cannot thank Storm Eye Institute enough" states his mother Stacy.