

Colleen Thomas
Patient Testimonial
Storm Eye Institute

As a wife and mother with a full-time job and a household to manage, Colleen Thomas often finds herself putting her own needs last. “I do a lot of juggling,” says the 40-year-old.

Colleen decided to do something that would save her time, but would also improve her appearance. Her idea? Permanent makeup.

She looked at before and after pictures of women who had chosen the option. A friend of hers also had it done and she was impressed with what she saw. Her friend told her about Malissa LaRoche Sandhu, PA-C, who specializes in cosmetic services at the Albert Florens Storm Eye Institute at the Medical University of South Carolina.

“I want to age gracefully,” said Colleen. “I want to take care of myself. Permanent makeup seemed like a small investment for long-term results. Plus, I like the time saver.”

Colleen accompanied her friend to her appointment to watch the procedure and see, first hand, the results. “Malissa was so confident and I really liked her manner. When I saw Sharon’s eyes, I was ready to do it myself.”

During the procedure, Malissa put Colleen at ease. Her eyes were numbed, then Malissa held her eye securely in place while injecting the permanent pigment that would better define the shape of Colleen’s eyes. “I never had any sensation of pain, burning or stinging,” she said. “It felt more like a little tickle.”

“She let me look at the results during the procedure to make me feel comfortable, but everything was great. Malissa consulted with me as we were going along to make me secure. Her talking really soothed me during the process. I had no swelling that evening, the next day only mild swelling, but not so much that anybody else noticed.”

The results? “At first it was a little dark because it has to fade. Now it looks like I have thicker lashes even without mascara. This is great! I’m running to the store; doing things without worrying about my makeup. Now my eyes don’t look invisible like they used to. I have a finished look without having to work at it.’

Colleen has received a number of compliments on how nice her eyes look. “My husband is very pleased,” she said. “He thinks I look great. And now I don’t have to worry about my eye makeup smudging. I used to always have to wipe my eyeliner and re-apply, but now I don’t have to do that.”

Another benefit Colleen has experienced is a reduction in uveitis, an inflammation of the eyes that produces redness. For Colleen, eye makeup aggravated the condition. “Everything around the eye is so delicate, so permanent. You can’t mess around with your vision. With permanent makeup, I don’t have the goop of makeup, but the clean look of eyeliner.”

“I love Storm Eye Institute. I can’t imagine going anywhere else. It’s the only place I ever need to go for all my eye care needs.”