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**LASER VISION CORRECTION PROCEDURE VOLUME INCREASES FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR,
THE REFRACTIVE SURGERY COUNCIL REPORTS**

*U.S. Volume for LASIK and Other Laser Vision Correction Procedures Continues Impressive
Growth Trend*

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF OPHTHALMOLOGY MEETING, CHICAGO, (October 29, 2018) – U.S. laser vision correction procedure volume continues to increase for the third year in a row, indicating a growing demand for LASIK and other laser vision correction procedures, according to data released today by the Refractive Surgery Council (RSC).

Year-to-date laser vision correction volume reached 645,574 procedures by the end of the third quarter – an increase of 6.5 percent over the same period in 2017. The numbers reflect a steady upward trend since 2015 – an average year over year growth rate of eight percent. Procedures in the analysis include LASIK, PRK and small incision lenticule extraction (SMILE).

“The numbers reflect growing consumer interest and demand in laser vision correction, an expanding candidacy population based on demographics, epidemic rates of myopia and, most importantly, technological advancements that allow surgeons to offer procedures to more patients,” said RSC Chairman Jim Wachtman. “Laser vision correct procedures are safe and effective, making them a very attractive vision correction option for those who are good candidates. The RSC will continue to make a strong investment, with industry partners and physician organizations, in patient education, to enable more people considering laser vision correction to have a better understanding of the procedure, supporting this growth pattern.”

RSC focuses on educational efforts about the benefits of LASIK and other laser vision correction procedures across all public channels. The goal of these programs is to ensure that people considering laser vision correction have access to a breadth of information they can trust and have confidence in its credibility and authority. Developed specifically for the laser vision correction prospect, all RSC material is reviewed by experts in the field to ensure people have the information they need to make decisions about which options are right for them. The Council this year introduced its “RSC Verified” seal so all RSC patient education information is readily identified wherever it appears.

About Refractive Surgery Council

Formed in 2010, the Refractive Surgery Council (RSC) is a leading voice in the field of refractive surgery. Its members are comprised of industry representatives (Alcon, Bausch + Lomb, Johnson & Johnson Vision, Zeiss, and Ziemer) and medical professional organizations, including the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS), the American-European Congress of Ophthalmic Surgery (AECOS), the International Society for Refractive Surgery (ISRS), and the Refractive Surgery Alliance Society (RSA), which work together to ensure that people who are considering refractive surgery make decisions that are right for them.

Through its educational programs, RSC helps people make informed choices about the way people see the world. RSC supports clinically accurate and productive discussions with current and prospective patients, medical professionals and educators, legislators, the media and the refractive surgery industry.

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