

“It Is Written – That I May Receive My Sight” published 12/27/19 by It Is Written. John Bradshaw and others speaking. This review was left on 12/28/19.

To preface this, I would say it would be a terrible handicap to be blind and I applaud those who help the blind. That said, there are claims in this video that are entirely unrealistic. It is claimed that the usual surgeon can only do 30 to 40 cataract surgeries per day. Taking the high end of that, i.e., 40 per day, and saying the surgeon was operating for 12 hours in the day, would mean the surgeon was doing 3.3 cataract surgeries per hour. In doing that the surgeon would be devoting 18.2 minutes per cataract surgery which is realistic provided there was a competent team helping to prepare the patients for surgery.

It is claimed that the special surgeon featured in the video can do "over" 300 to 400 surgeries per day. Taking the lower end of those numbers, i.e., 300 per day, and giving that surgeon 12 hours to perform those surgeries, would mean the surgeon was devoting 2.4 minutes for each surgery. If the surgeon took off one hour to eat, use the restroom, etc., he would have only 2.2 minutes in which to complete a surgery. At 400 surgeries per 12 hour period said surgeon would have to average 1.8 minutes per surgery with no potty or meal breaks.

Giving the "Gift of Sight" is laudable. I doubt the claims of "Eyes For India" are anywhere close to realistic.

On 12/30/19, the following reply was left by It Is Written:

Thank you for your note. We can assure you the video is accurate. We have watched the surgeries done in India ourselves. Dr. Prabhakar has perfected a surgery method that is quicker and he, along with his medical team, are able to get safe and wonderful results in a short period of time.

My reply on 12/31/19:

I would like to believe that Dr. Prabhakar can perform “over” 300 to 400 cataract surgeries per day. I really would. Though those numbers seemed unrealistic to me I wanted to give you the benefit of the doubt so I did some more research on the subject of cataract surgery times.

According to the Khaleej Times in an article dated 12/30/11, Dr. Akahoshi, Director of Ophthalmology at Canadian Specialist Hospital perfected a special faster technique for cataract surgery. It said Dr. Akahoshi broke the “world record” for the fastest cataract surgery with a time of 1 minute 29 seconds (1.5 minutes). That would be from the time he picked up the special diamond knife until the time the surgery was done and didn’t include any time for examining the patient, positioning the patient, etc. For Dr. Prabhakar to do 300 surgeries per day, he would have to keep up an average pace of no more than 2.4 minutes per patient (different than time per surgery) for 12 hours straight

with no breaks for anything. That wouldn't include the extra time needed for a more a difficult patient which would assuredly happen in a group of even 100 patients.

Guess what Dr. Akahoshi's usual operative load is in Japan. Fifty to fifty-five cases a day. Of course his time per patient (not time per surgery) would be increased by such factors as availability of an operating room, limiting malpractice risk, sterile technique, etc. Obviously, surgeries performed under less stringent rules could be performed faster. I looked for examples of surgeries performed under similar conditions to India.

There was an article published by CNBC on 10/13/13 in which it was stated that using an assembly line process in Nepal it was possible for the "best" doctors to do 100 cataract surgeries a day taking three and a half to four minutes for each surgery. Once again, that is the operative time and doesn't include the time for moving and positioning the patient nor does it allow for complicating factors.

I have no reason to doubt Dr. Prabhakar's surgical results but believe his prowess has been somewhat embellished. Even at 100 surgeries per day, I'm sure his services would be greatly appreciated.

It Is Written responded to this as well as follows:

"Dr. Jacob's team positions and readies each patient. He has one set up on each side and moves quickly between each. He works long hours each surgery day, without food or bathroom breaks. God has certainly blessed him in that he is able to do these quickly!"

Despite the numbers I gave above, It Is Written still maintains that Dr. Prabhakar can do "over" 300 to 400 cataracts surgeries per day. I didn't even mention the other things that are needful to do in preparing for surgery like washing your hands and changing gloves BETWEEN patients even if they are lying side by side. A less charitable view would be that he doesn't wash his hands or change gloves between patients in which case it would be wrong to call his technique "safe." If Dr. Prabhakar is doing hundreds of cataract surgeries in India, he assuredly will at some time operate on someone who has leprosy, tuberculosis or the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Without using sterile technique, eventually some results are going to be seen as not "wonderful."

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