

Area student benefits from Dakota Lions Sight & Health birth tissue donation program.

Josh, a young college student from Sturgis, South Dakota was enjoying a typical Fourth of July celebration when things took a turn for the worse. A large firework unexpectedly exploded near his face causing serious damage to his left eye. All too often these types of accidents result in permanent damage or loss of eyesight.

Josh suffered burns and lacerations of his cornea and saw different doctors over the first few months of the accident with little success in repairing the damage or improving his eyesight. On his return to school in the eastern half of South Dakota he had an appointment with an eye specialist who recommended an amnion graft.

An amnion graft is a biologic ocular transplantation graft used as an adjunct therapy to treat ocular surface indications. Dakota Lions Sight & Health's recent addition of a birth tissue donation program meant amniotic membrane obtained from human placenta was locally available for Josh's procedure. Amniotic membranes used for the grafts contain growth factors, cytokines and stem cells that stimulate healing and expediate recovery.

Josh reported that within two-weeks of the procedure the improvement in his sight and the reduction of discomfort was truly amazing. He also said that the vision in his left eye is actually better today than it was before the accident.

Marcy Dimond, Chief Executive Officer of Dakota Lions Sight & Health said: *Our organization is extremely proud of introducing a birth tissue donation program to our area and we know the use of this type of tissue will continue to make a significant impact on so many lives, like Josh's.*



To learn more about Dakota Lions Sight & Health and our birth tissue donation program please visit dakotasight.org.