

LASEK

With LASEK, a dilute alcohol solution is used to separate the epithelium and an instrument is used to gently scroll it to the side. An excimer laser is then used to reshape the cornea. Then, the epithelial sheet is repositioned (or in some cases, is simply removed). A bandage contact lens is applied and left in place for a few days to help the epithelium heal.

Complications And Side Effects

Because LASIK, epi-LASIK, PRK and LASEK are surgical procedures, it is very important to make an informed decision when deciding whether refractive surgery is the right choice for you. Complications and side effects from these procedures may include:

- Temporary discomfort;
- Blurry and fluctuating vision;
- Glare and halos;
- Under-or over-correction;
- Poor night vision;
- Irregular astigmatism;
- Corneal scarring;
- Permanent vision loss.

What Is The Best Method Of Correcting Refractive Errors?

There is no best method for correcting refractive errors. The most appropriate correction for you depends on your eyes and your lifestyle. You should discuss your eye condition and your lifestyle with your ophthalmologist to decide which correction may be most effective for you.

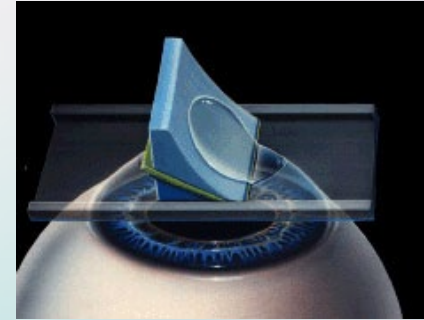
Photorefractive keratectomy (PRK)

With PRK, the surgeon removes the epithelium from the cornea. An excimer laser is then used to reshape the cornea. A bandage contact lens is then applied and left in place for a few days to help the epithelium heal.

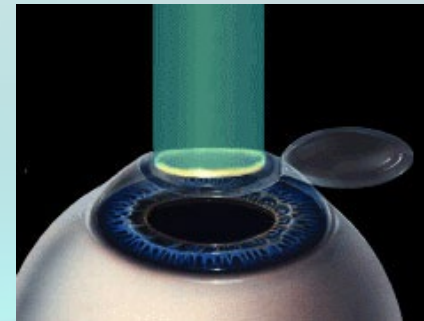
Myopia

When patients come to either of our offices to undergo the LASIK vision correction procedure, anesthetic eye drops are first applied to the eyes.

Typically patients do not experience pain, but they may feel pressure during treatment. One of our LASIK vision correction surgeon will make a flap in the cornea, exposing the underlying layers of corneal tissue.



An excimer laser is then used to reshape the cornea to correct its refractive power.



For nearsighted patients, the cornea is flattened during LASIK surgery so light can focus on the retina as it does in a normal eye. After the predetermined amount of corneal tissue has been removed, the flap is replaced and will naturally reseal itself within a few minutes.



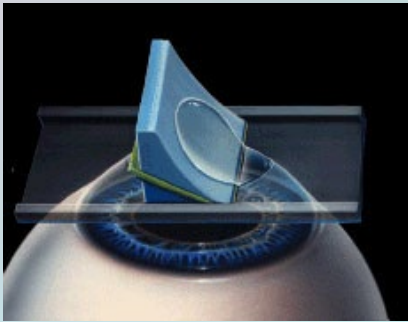
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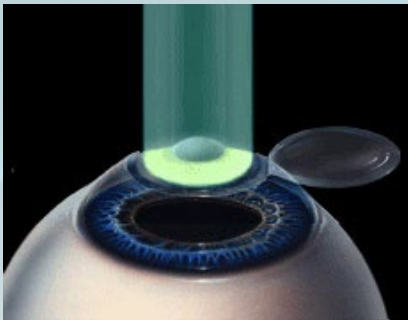
Hyperopia

Laser in-Situ Keratomileusis (LASIK) can be used to treat low to high levels of farsightedness (hyperopia) with the goal of reducing or eliminating dependence on corrective lenses. Farsightedness occurs when the cornea is too flat or the eye is too short. This causes the focal point of light to fall behind the retina, rather than on the retina, resulting in blurry near vision. LASIK uses the computer-controlled precision of the excimer laser to treat the inner tissue of the cornea.

The procedure is done using eye drop anesthesia, and while you may feel pressure, the technique is not painful. An instrument known as a microkeratome makes a protective flap in the outer layer of the cornea.



Then the excimer laser sculpts the internal corneal tissue to the correct refractive power by steepening the curvature of the exposed corneal tissue. The "steeper" cornea allows light rays to focus more directly on the retina, thereby reducing farsightedness.



After a few minutes of drying, the corneal flap is laid back in its original position. Due to the cornea's extraordinary natural bonding qualities, the flap seals without sutures within two to five minutes.

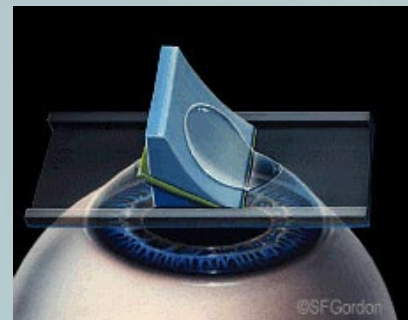


Although the vast majority of patients see 20/40 or better postoperatively, individual results cannot be guaranteed. The surgery is performed on an out-patient basis and most people return to work within one to three days. As with any surgical procedure, side effects and complications may occur.

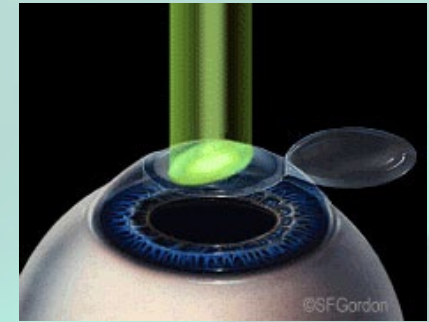
Astigmatism

Laser in-Situ Keratomileusis (LASIK) can be used to treat some cases of regular astigmatism. Astigmatism occurs when the shape of the cornea is irregular, and not spherical in shape. This causes light rays in one axis to be focused away from the retina, resulting in blurred vision. LASIK uses the computer-controlled precision of the excimer laser to treat the inner tissue of the cornea in one direction more than the other.

The procedure is done using eye drop anesthesia, and, while you may feel pressure, the technique is generally not painful. An instrument known as a microkeratome makes a protective flap in the outer layer of the cornea, at about twenty-five percent of its depth from the surface.



Then the excimer laser sculpts the internal corneal tissue to the correct refractive power in the "steep" axis by flattening the curvature of the exposed corneal tissue in that axis more than the other.



Light rays are then more directly focused on the retina in both axis, thereby reducing the astigmatism. After a few minutes of drying, the corneal flap is laid back in its original position. Due to the cornea's extraordinary natural bonding qualities, the flap seals on without sutures within two to five minutes.



The surgery is performed on an out-patient basis and most people return to work within one to three days. As with any surgical procedure, individual results cannot be guaranteed and side effects and complications may occur.