



## LASIK Commonly Asked Questions

### **Q. What is LASIK?**

A. LASIK is a procedure that improves vision by changing the shape the cornea with a laser to effectively treat a wide range of vision problems. LASIK is the number one elective surgery in the country.

### **Q. Why do people have LASIK surgery?**

A. Research has shown that there are four main reasons that people choose to have LASIK.

They are:

- Life simplification: No longer having to deal with glasses or contacts
- Independence: Freedom from dependence on glasses and/or contacts
- Performance: Ability to perform better in sports-related activities
- Ability to see 24/7 when it counts: Better vision for all occasions (e.g., at a play, evening out, playing golf)

### **Q. What results can a person hope to achieve?**

A. LASIK has proven overwhelmingly successful in reducing dependence on glasses and contact lenses. Clinical studies show that most LASIK patients (with mild to moderate prescriptions) have the potential to achieve 20/20 vision or near 20/20 vision.

### **Q. Who is a good candidate for LASIK?**

A. LASIK can treat a very broad range of nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. The best way to determine who is a good candidate is with a thorough eye exam. Candidates must be 21 years of age or older, in good general health, and have good eye health with no diseases such as cataracts or glaucoma.

### **Q. How long will the LASIK procedure take?**

A. The LASIK laser vision correction procedure takes less than 15 minutes in the operating room. The actual laser time is approximately 1 minute.

### **Q. Are there any risks associated with LASIK?**

A. Some potential complications include conditions such as dryness or night glare, which in most cases stop within the first 6 months post surgery. Rare occasions such as under or over-correction, and loss of best-corrected vision should be discussed fully with the doctor prior to the procedure. Additionally, proper post-operative care helps to identify and address any potential healing complications.

**Q. What is the recovery process like?**

A. Most LASIK patients usually see quite well the day following their procedure and may be able to resume most of their normal daily activities. Although the speed of visual recovery depends on personal healing patterns, most patients notice dramatic visual results within the first few days following their procedure.

**Q. Does the LASIK procedure hurt?**

A. There is almost no pain involved with LASIK, but many patients find the procedure to be slightly uncomfortable. Anesthetic drops are used to numb the eye before surgery and patients may be given a mild sedative to relax. After the procedure, the eye may feel a foreign body sensation or slight irritation, like a grain of sand in your eye which will last for a few hours. It is recommended for patients to sleep until that discomfort is minimized.

**Q. What is the difference between Conventional LASIK and Custom LASIK?**

A. Custom LASIK is an individualized laser vision correction treatment that is wavefront-guided. With the Custom LASIK procedure, nearsighted, farsighted and astigmatic individuals have the potential to achieve a new level of vision. Custom LASIK uses wavefront-guided technology to measure unique imperfections in the eye. The doctor then uses that information to fine-tune the procedure thereby providing a new level of precision and accuracy for that individual.

**Q. What does LASIK cost?**

A. When you compare against the cost of purchasing multiple pairs of glasses or contact lenses, LASIK is cost effective. In fact, over a 20 year period, the average patient would spend between \$12,000 to \$16,000 on contacts and \$6,000 on glasses. The average cost of a LASIK procedure is \$1,800 per eye.