

## Eyesight Correction with LASIK

Over the past ten years, countless patients have enjoyed the benefits of eyesight correction with LASIK. This procedure uses a laser to correct such common eyesight problems as astigmatism, far-sightedness and near-sightedness.

The LASIK procedure begins with an initial evaluation by your eye doctor. About one month before your scheduled surgery date, you'll be advised to stop wearing contact lenses, and will instead be given a pair of eyeglasses to wear at all times. Tell your doctor about your past and current medical and eye conditions, and inform him or her about the medications you are currently taking, and any medications you are allergic to. Your doctor will speak to you about the possible risks and benefits of undergoing LASIK eye surgery. Consider the risks and weigh your options before signing the informed consent form. The day before surgery, you should stop using creams, lotions, makeup and perfumes, as these products may increase the risk of post-surgery infection.

On the day of your LASIK procedure, the doctor may give you a mild sedative to help you relax. The entire LASIK procedure will only take about thirty minutes to complete, and you will be asked to lie comfortably in a reclining chair. The doctor will administer eye drops, and will use a lid speculum will hold your eyelids open. Next, a ring is placed on your eye, causing very high pressures to create suction on your cornea. This suction will cause dimness to your vision. A cutting instrument called a microkeratome is attached to the suction ring. Using this tool, the doctor will cut a flap in the cornea.

The suction ring and microkeratome are then removed. You will be asked to stare directly at a light coming from a laser, to keep your eye fixed on one spot while the laser is used. The doctor will start the laser when your eye is in the correct position. Using pulses of laser energy, the doctor will vaporize the corneal tissue. The flap is then put back into position, and a shield is placed over your eye. This is the final step of your LASIK procedure, and provides necessary protection to help the area heal.

In the days following your eye correction with LASIK, you may feel some discomfort. This is not uncommon, and mild irritation should not be cause for concern. It's crucial that you avoid rubbing your eye following surgery, as this could dislodge the flap. There are other possible side effects following LASIK surgery, such as sensitivity to light. These symptoms will usually improve in just a few days. In the event that you experience severe pain, contact your doctor immediately.

It may take three to six months after LASIK surgery for your vision to completely stabilize. Your doctor will wait until your eye measurements are consistent for two consecutive visits, at least 3 months after undergoing the LASIK procedure.

If you've lived a lifetime with vision problems, eyesight correction with LASIK surgery can put an end your troubles with one simple 30-minute treatment.