

LASIK (laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis – surgical improvement of the refractive state of the cornea) is a type of surgery for correcting myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism, performed by an ophthalmologist using a laser. LASIK is similar to other surgical corrective procedures though it provides benefits such as lack of pain or discomfort during the procedure and faster patient recovery. LASIK eye surgery represents advances in the surgical treatment of vision problems and is a viable alternative to wearing corrective eyeglasses or contact lenses for many patients. Both near-sighted and far-sighted people can benefit from LASIK surgery.

Frequently asked questions:

- Who is Vaser® Liposuction for?
- What can I expect?
- What does the surgery involve?
- What will recovery be like?
- What are the possible risks or complications?
- What will be the overall outcome of the procedure?

Who is LASIK Eye Surgery for?

To decide whether you're a good candidate for LASIK your eye surgeon will perform an eye exam to determine if your eyes are healthy enough for the procedure, establish what kind of vision correction you need and how much laser ablation is required. You will also be examined for signs of dry eye disease, which must be treated and cleared up before LASIK can be performed. Even if your eyes have a normal tear film, your eye surgeon may recommend treatment to reduce your risk of developing dry eyes after LASIK. The doctor will ask you about any health problems you have or medications you take. Some health conditions will disqualify you altogether for LASIK, but others may just postpone the procedure until a later date.

What can I expect?

Patients wearing soft contact lenses are usually instructed to stop wearing them 5 to 21 days before surgery. One industry body recommends that patients wearing hard contact lenses should stop wearing them for a minimum of six weeks plus another six weeks for every three years the hard contacts have been worn. Check your situation with your eye surgeon.

LASIK Eye Surgery

What does surgery involve?

LASIK is an ambulatory procedure - you walk into the surgery center, have the procedure and walk out again. In fact, the actual surgery usually takes less than five minutes, and you're awake the whole time. The patient is usually given a mild sedative (such as Valium) and anesthetic eye drops.

What will recovery be like?

Following surgery you should be able to go to work the next day, but many doctors advise a couple of days rest instead. They also recommend no strenuous exercise for up to a week since this can traumatize the eye and affect healing, stay out of direct sunlight or bright lights, avoid rubbing your eyes, wear less or no eye make up for the first three to six months, as these cosmetics may irritate the already sensitive eyes and generally wear darkened glasses outdoors for six weeks. Patients are usually given a course of antibiotic and anti-inflammatory eye drops to be continued in the weeks following surgery.

What will be the overall outcome of the procedure?

With LASIK surgery most people's vision improves right away, but some find that their vision gradually improves even more over the next few days or even weeks. LASIK outcomes may vary. Most people achieve 20/20 or better vision, some may achieve only 20/40 or not quite as good. In fact, 20/40 is fairly good vision and in most countries generally considered good enough for driving. Some patients still need glasses or contact lenses following LASIK, though their prescription level typically will be much lower than before.