

LASIK

Evan Lum

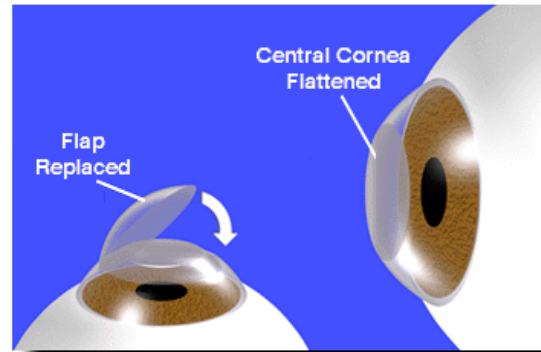
BME 282 Fall 2009

Lasik is a surgical procedure that uses lasers to fix a range of flaws in ones vision including myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism. This procedure was started by a Spanish ophthalmologist named Jose Barraquer around 1950 in Colombia. Microkeratomes create a thin flap of the cornea which is folded back so that reshaping of the cornea can be performed. This process is known as keratomileusis. Depending whether the patient is nearsighted, farsighted, or has a stigmatism, the reconstruction of underlying tissue varies. Today Lasik has greatly developed, using bladeless lasers to make the incision in the cornea making the surgery faster and less painful.

Lasik is only one type of vision correcting surgery but is recommended most. The reason for this is the short recovery time and less overall pain inflicted on the patient. The operation is performed when the patient is awake however sometimes a mild sedative is used. The procedure is quick, having only three steps. First the cornea is cut and removed so the tissue is exposed. Lasers then remodel the tissue and the flap of the cornea is simply placed back on, making sure there are no air bubbles and it sits flat, and held with a natural adhesive.

The laser used is called an Excimer laser which “vaporizes tissue in a finely controlled manner without damaging the adjacent stoma”. The layers of tissue are removed in tens of micrometers at a time. During this period, the patient can only see a white light and an orange dot where the laser is. Once the surgery is done the healing process is not too bad. Antibiotic eye drops must be used by the patient and extra sleep

is encouraged to give the eyes sufficient rest.



Though the Lasik procedure is almost always successful, it has risks and possible side effects just like any medical procedure. Patients risk loss of vision, diminishing results and under or over treatment. Patients who have a prescription that has been getting worse with time face more risks.

The price of Lasik surgery varies with the patient and is quoted per eye. Newer technologies ensuring precision cost more. The average cost for the surgery is around \$2,000. This price varies also on the severity of the surgery.

Works Cited

<http://www.allaboutvision.com/visionsurgery/#laser>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LASIK>

<http://www.lasik-dangers-exposed.org/>

<http://www.allaboutvision.com/visionsurgery/cost.htm>