

Bladeless LASIK Eye Surgery

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LASIK Eye Surgery is a type of refractive eye surgery using a laser to eliminate the use of the glasses or contacts. LASIK stands for laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis., which means a laser is used to shape the cornea of the eye. Using a laser, a flap is made in the cornea. Then using a different type of laser, the cornea is reshaped to eliminate the need for corrective eye wear.

LASIK has become very popular because it corrects the three most common vision problems. The first is myopia or nearsightedness or when the eye focuses incorrectly making distant objects appear blurry. The second vision problem LASIK corrects is hyperopia or farsightedness. In this case, the focus is behind the retina rather than directly on it. The final correction LASIK makes is for astigmatism, or when the eye is abnormally curved causing out-of-focus vision.

There are many steps needed to prepare someone for surgery. The first is an eye exam. This is crucial because it determines if the eye is healthy enough for the surgery. An eye exam also determines what kind of correction is needed and how much laser ablation is needed. After the eye exam, a measurement of the curvature of the eye and a "map" of the cornea is done using a corneal topographer. A surgeon may also want a more precise "map" of the aberrations which is provided by sending light waves into the eye, called a wavefront analysis.

During surgery a patient will be given numbing eye drops to avoid any discomfort since patients are awake during the procedure. While laying down, the patient's eye will be positioned underneath a laser. A retainer will be placed in the eye to keep it open during surgery. A surgeon will then mark the cornea. A femtosecond laser will then be used to create suction to the cornea to prevent eye movement. Then using the femtosecond laser a flap will be made in the cornea. The flap will then be moved out of the way and

an excimer laser will be positioned above the eye. Using this laser, the cornea will be reshaped to correct vision through pulses sent from the laser. Most people get the second eye done immediately after the first.

After surgery, patients must take it easy. Immediately after, patients rest in the doctor's office. After a few hours, someone else may drive them home. Then they must rest for a few days before returning back to work or school. Strenuous activity must also be avoided for at minimum a week. Patients must avoid rubbing their eyes as the flap can become dislodged. It may take up to three months to be completely healed however many people see results within hours. Once healed, many people reach 20/20 vision and those who do not usually achieve 20/40 vision.

There are many benefits to having LASIK eye surgery. One is the speedy results. LASIK is an ambulatory surgery or out-patient surgery. This means you come in, get the surgery and leave all in the same day. The procedure on each eye only takes a few minutes and results can be seen within a few hours. Another benefit is freedom from eyewear. Because perfect vision is usually achieved, people no longer need glasses or contacts. A final benefit to having LASIK surgery is that future expenses are avoided. LASIK is permanent so the procedure will never have to be done a second time. Also since glasses and contacts are no longer needed after surgery, expenses of future glasses or prescriptions are avoided. LASIK eye surgery improves the quality of life of many people and is very beneficial.

References

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