

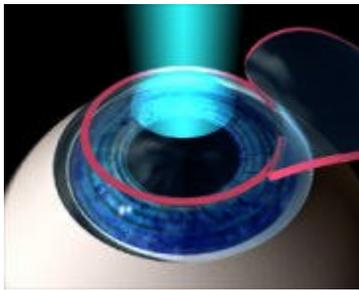
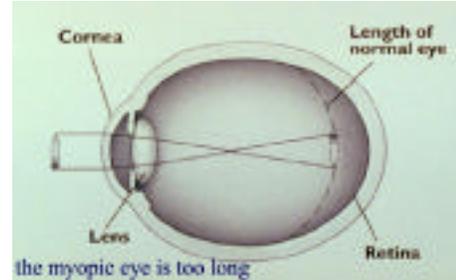
LASIK Eye Surgery

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ELE 282

Reasons For Surgery...

3 Primary Refractive Errors:

- 1) Myopia - "Nearsightedness"- The eyeball is slightly longer than standard from front to back. This causes the light rays to focus at a point in front of the retina, rather than directly on its surface.
- 2) Hyperopia - "Farsightedness"- The eyeball is shorter than standard from front to back. This causes the light rays to focus at a point behind the retina.
- 3) Astigmatism -Distortion of the image on the retina caused by irregularities in the cornea or lens of the eye.



LASIK Candidacy: Is LASIK right for me?

- Will it jeopardize my career?
- Do I have a disease or take medications that may affect wound healing?
- Do I have refractive Stability?
- Am I over 18?
- Do I actively participate in contact sports?
- Do I have thin corneas?
- Can I afford it?

What is LASIK?

LASIK stands for Laser-Assisted In Situ Keratomileusis and is a permanent surgical procedure in which a flap is cut on the cornea with a knife-like tool, called microkeratome. The shape of the cornea is then changed via a cool ultraviolet light beam from an excimer laser.

How is it Performed?

The doctor will make sure your eye is positioned directly under the laser. A retainer is placed over your eye to keep your eyelids open. A suction ring keeps your eye pressurized, which is important in LASIK for allowing the surgeon to cut the corneal flap. The surgeon will mark where the flap should be placed. The flap is then created with either a microkeratome blade or with a laser, depending on the surgeon's preference. The doctor uses a computer to adjust the laser for your particular prescription. You will look at a target light for a short time while he watches your eye through a microscope while the laser sends pulses of light to your cornea. The laser light pulses will then painlessly remove the tissue.

How much does it cost?

The price of LASIK varies from doctor to doctor depending on consultation fees, surgical fees, and other implicated costs. In general though, the price of LASIK surgery is about \$1000 to \$2500 per eye. This cost is not covered by most if not all insurance carriers.

Risks?

- Some patients lose vision** that cannot be corrected with glasses, contact lenses, or surgery as a result of treatment.
- Some patients develop debilitating visual symptoms** like glare, halos, and/or double vision that can seriously affect nighttime vision.
- You may be under treated or over treated.**
- Possible severe dry eye syndrome.** As a result of surgery, your eye may not be able to produce enough tears to keep the eye moist and comfortable.
- You may still require glasses** or contacts after the surgery. For some farsighted patients, results may diminish with age.
- The level of improved vision you experience after surgery **may decrease with age.**
- Long-term data is not available.** LASIK is a relatively new technology.

Sources:

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