

FAQs About LASIK



LASIK is a surgical procedure and like most procedures comes with risks and possible side effects:

Is it possible my treatment could result in the continued use of glasses or contacts?

It is possible that treatment could result in an unintended under- response or over- response that may require the Continued use of glasses or contact lenses after surgery has been performed.



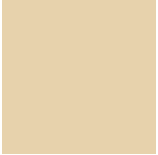
Could there be a change in or induction of ASTIGMATISM from the procedure?

Yes, The surgical procedure may change astigmatism or induce astigmatism even if you did not have it prior to the procedure. You should discuss this with your doctor



Is there a risk of infection or inflammation?

Although infrequent, infection or inflammation is possible during the healing of the cornea. This may result in permanently decreased vision. To achieve good results from the procedure, it is important to follow the doctor's recommendations regarding post-operative medications, activities, and restrictions.



I've heard that some patients experience a haze after LASIK?

Haze is not the initial blurriness experienced immediately after treatment. Rather, haze may become evident in the weeks and months after surgery. Some patients experience haze (or corneal cloudiness). PRK and LASEK procedures have higher risks of haze than LASIK. Haze is difficult to treat and may result in loss of best-corrected visual acuity, including permanent loss of visual sharpness or clarity.



Will my "night vision" be affected?

Vision at night could not seem as sharp as during the day. Some patients may experience night-glare, as a "starburst," a "halo effect," or haze around lights in the nighttime. Some degree of night glare can be expected in many patients. It usually is tolerable and resolves in time, but on occasion could be permanent. Patients with high myopia or high astigmatism are at a greater risk of experiencing these problems, as are patients with large pupils. Dry eyes, as well as over or under response, could also result in night glare. In some cases, corrective lenses may help patients see clearly at night. Corrective lenses may not be able to compensate for some loss of night vision.



Will I be more sensitive to bright lights or glares?

There may be an increased sensitivity to light or glare in some patients.



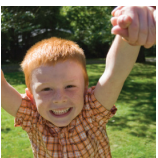
Will my vision be blurry after LASIK?

Blurriness is common in the healing process. While blurriness generally clears in several days, it may take longer to clear, and could remain permanently.



Is it possible to lose the best-corrected visual acuity?

There is a risk of loss of best corrected visual acuity. For most patients, visual acuity will have stabilized in about 3 to 6 months, although full recovery, especially for PRK, may take 4 to 12 months. A small percentage of patients develop Irregular corneas that reduce the sharpness, clarity and crispness of their vision.



What are some possible corneal flap complications?

There is also a small risk that patients may develop a corneal flap complication. A flap complication may require the procedure to be stopped or postponed for several months.

Is there a LASIK flap re-lifting procedure?

A relifting of the flap may be required after your original procedure for conditions such as flap striae or wrinkles, debris, epithelial in-growth, inflammation or other reasons.

FAQs About LASIK (*continued*)

Will I need reading glasses after LASIK?

If you are over 40 years of age and have laser vision correction to correct both eyes for distance vision, you will likely need reading glasses in order to see objects approximately 3 feet and closer, either now, or sometime in the next several years. This condition is called Presbyopia, and it begins to affect most people after the age of 40. If I am age 40 or older, Monovision, like reading glasses, is another solution for Presbyopia, about which you can discuss with your doctor.

Will my eyes be dry after LASIK?

You may experience dryness of the eyes and this dryness may cause severe irritation, discomfort, and blurring of vision for several weeks, or longer, and could rarely be permanent. The use of artificial tears, eye ointments, prescription medication, or punctual plugs may be needed for an indefinite period of time. Post menopausal women may be at higher risk for developing dry eyes. Some medications may also cause dry eyes.

Is double vision a real concern?

You may experience double or ghosted vision, which may go away with time. If it does not go away, enhancements may be needed after the procedure, which may or may not help this issue.

What is Keratoconus and Ectasia?

Keratoconus occurs when the cornea progressively begins to thin and bulge. Keratoconus is a degenerative corneal condition affecting vision. Keratoconus can be difficult to diagnose in its early stages. Keratoconus and laser vision correction surgery may or may not accelerate the degeneration of the cornea. You may develop keratoconus even if you do not have Laser Vision Correction surgery. The cornea could also become weakened from the thinning of laser vision correction, and begin to bulge and take on an irregular shape. This is known as ectasia. While there are several tests that suggest which patients might be at risk, these conditions can develop in patients who have a normal preoperative profile regarding the shape and thickness of their cornea. There is no way to completely eliminate the risks of ectasia with LASIK, PRK or LASEK. Patients having LASIK are at higher risks for ectasia than patients having PRK or LASEK. The doctor may recommend PRK as a way to lower the risk of ectasia, but there is no guarantee that the condition will not develop. Keratoconus or ectasia can distort vision. Severe keratoconus or ectasia which results in vision loss, which may be treatable with a corneal transplant, while mild keratoconus or ectasia may be treatable with special contact lenses.

Will further treatment be necessary?

Further treatment could include a variety of eyedrops, the wearing of glasses and/or contact lenses (hard or soft), or additional surgical or laser correction (enhancements). Further treatment, including hospitalization, could be necessary. If you do not follow the doctor's orders regarding follow-up-care, you may be jeopardizing the healing process or long term health of your eye(s).

Does the LASIK equipment ever malfunction?

The microkeratome or femtosecond (in LASIK) or the excimer laser (in LASIK, PRK, and Epi-LASIK) could malfunction, requiring the procedure to be stopped before completion. In some instances, the malfunction may not be detected until after the procedure. Depending on the type of malfunction, this may or may not be accompanied by visual loss.

Is there a risk to having both eyes treated at the same time?

Treating both eyes on the same day, could develop complications in both eyes at the same time. As a patient, it is your choice for treatment of one eye at a time or both eyes on the same day.

Are there any other complications to LASIK?

As with all types of surgery, there is a possibility of complications, including those due to drug reactions. Understand that it is impossible to be informed of all potential risks of any surgery, including laser vision corrective procedures. Provide the LasikPlus staff with complete and up to date information regarding prescription and over the counter medications you currently take. Any drug allergies and pre-existing medical conditions, including prior surgeries, degenerative conditions, active or preexisting eye disorders and any previous eye treatments should be shared with your doctor. Complications may occur that require additional medical care, treatments, tests, medicines or surgery and this care or surgery may be at your expense.