

Information From Your Eye M.D.

LASIK RISKS

LASIK, laser assisted in situ keratomileusis, is an outpatient surgical procedure used to treat myopia (nearsightedness), hyperopia (farsightedness) and astigmatism by reshaping the cornea (the clear “window” at the front of the eye). LASIK, like any surgery, has risks that need to be carefully considered.

Risks

LASIK risk rates, types and degrees vary widely from person to person. The most common side effects of LASIK are:

- Dry Eye
- Changing and blurry vision
- Light sensitivity and glare
- Undercorrection or overcorrection
- Nighttime haloes and starbursts
- Temporary discomfort

For most people these side effects resolve or decrease with time.

- Approximately five percent are undercorrected and return for enhancements.

Rare sight-threatening complications of LASIK are: ¹

- Corneal infection
- Corneal inflammation
- Permanent vision loss
- Problems with the “flap” that is created (or made) in the cornea during surgery
- Foreign matter under flap

Fortunately, for some people, the side effects wear off or can be improved with glasses, contact lenses or additional laser surgery.

Facts and Statistics

- In clinical studies, serious complication rates vary between zero and five percent. ²
- Approximately five to 15 percent of LASIK patients return for enhancements (additional procedures to help improve vision after the first surgery). ³

Should I Have LASIK?

If considering LASIK, it is important to understand that LASIK is surgery and that results cannot be guaranteed. Before making a decision about getting LASIK, make sure the surgeon fully explains the risks and benefits of the procedure. **Those who expect perfect vision from LASIK may be disappointed.**

Where Can I Get More Information?

Your Eye M.D. (ophthalmologist) is the best source of information on LASIK, as well as eye health and safety.

If you would like more information on LASIK, please visit the American Academy of Ophthalmology's public information Web site at www.medem.com/eyemd or contact the FDA at www.fda.gov for additional information.

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