Bladeless LASIK and PRK

The specialists at North Shore-LIJ Laser Vision Correction understand how valuable your sight is to you, which is why we use the safest, most advanced technology and procedures to improve your vision. This includes the use of bladeless LASIK and PRK to treat conditions such as nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism.

Bladeless LASIK

Traditional LASIK eye surgery uses a metal blade to cut a thin, hinged flap in the cornea (clear front part of the eye). The flap is lifted, and the cornea is reshaped with a laser.

Bladeless LASIK was later introduced, and uses a precise, high-energy femtosecond laser instead of a blade to create the flap of corneal tissue. This flap of tissue allows the cornea to heal quickly and naturally with little to no discomfort.

Bladeless LASIK has been proven safe and effective and has several advantages over the use of a blade.

Bladeless PRK

PRK produces the same results as LASIK without the creation of a flap. Instead, the surface layer of your cornea is gently removed and the deeper layers are reshaped with the laser. The surface layer grows back within 3-4 days. Your doctor will determine which surgery is right for you.

Quick facts about bladeless LASIK:

- Bladeless LASIK has been used in more than 1 million LASIK procedures worldwide.
- Bladeless LASIK treatment can be further customized to each patient’s eyes. This enables surgeons to treat a wider range of patients, including those with thin corneas.

For more information on our LASIK services or to schedule your free laser vision evaluation, contact Victoria Leo at (516) 465-8450 or visit nslij.com/lasik.
LASIK Frequently Asked Questions

Am I a good candidate for refractive surgery?
Our board-certified cornea specialists personally examine every patient to determine if he/she is an appropriate candidate for LASIK. Special attention is given to corneal thickness, corneal topography (a computer-generated image of your cornea) and the stability of your eyeglass prescription. Our offices use state-of-the-art equipment to provide exceptional care. Additionally, our doctors spend time with each patient discussing the motivations for laser vision correction to ensure that everyone has realistic expectations.

Do you only treat nearsightedness?
Our physicians use the latest generation lasers to treat nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia) and astigmatism.

Am I a good candidate for Custom Laser Vision Correction?
The specialists at North Shore-LIJ LASIK Center offer Custom Vue treatments for their patients undergoing laser vision correction. Patients receiving custom LASIK have a greater chance of obtaining 20/20 vision. It is only approved, however, for patients within a specific range of refractive error (glasses/contacts prescription). Following an initial examination, you will find out if you are a suitable candidate.

Is the LASIK procedure painful?
Topical anesthetic drops are administered just before LASIK, so you will feel little or no pain or discomfort during the procedure.

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How will I feel after the procedure?
LASIK patients will generally have mild irritation for several hours following the procedure, but this often disappears by the next day. You may notice some pink or red patches on the white part of the eye – this is normal. Patients are encouraged to go home and sleep after the laser treatment.

What are the side effects of LASIK?
Some people experience temporary side effects after LASIK that usually disappear over time. In rare situations, they may be permanent.
Side effects may include:
- Discomfort or pain
- Hazy or blurry vision
- Light sensitivity
- Halos or starbursts around light
Almost everyone experiences dryness in the eyes and fluctuating vision right after the procedure. These symptoms usually fade within one month, although some people may have symptoms for a longer period of time.

What are the risks of LASIK?
LASIK, like any other surgery, has risks and complications that should be carefully considered. All patients should have a thorough understanding of the risks, benefits and alternatives of LASIK. Our physicians address these issues with you at your evaluation.

When will I need to return for my follow-up visits?
Your LASIK result is very important to us. You will need to follow up for several visits immediately following surgery and as needed afterward.

How soon after the procedure can I return to work?
Patients usually return to work within a day or two after the procedure.

How soon after the procedure can I apply makeup?
Eye makeup can be applied one week following the procedure.

What if I have a question after office hours?
If you have any questions or concerns after office hours, our answering service will put you in touch with your doctor.

What will my vision be like after having LASIK?
LASIK allows people to perform most of their everyday tasks with less dependence on corrective lenses. However, people looking for perfect vision without glasses or contacts run the risk of being disappointed. It is important that anyone considering LASIK have realistic expectations.

Can I drive myself home after the procedure?
No. Patients must be accompanied by someone who can escort them home.

Will I need reading glasses after LASIK?
Patients about 40 years of age and older will need reading glasses after LASIK, assuming both eyes are corrected to see well for distance. Ask about the various options that can either delay or eliminate the need for reading glasses.

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PRK Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between PRK and LASIK?
PRK and LASIK are both laser eye surgeries that reshape your cornea, but the cornea is accessed differently in each procedure. In PRK, the epithelium (outer surface) is removed and the deeper layers of your cornea are reshaped with the laser. In LASIK, your surgeon creates a thin flap in the middle layer of the cornea. The flap is then folded back to expose the corneal layers underneath, which are reshaped with the laser.

What conditions does PRK treat?
PRK is a surgical procedure used to treat nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia) and astigmatism.

Am I a good candidate for PRK?
Our board-certified cornea specialists personally examine every patient to determine if he or she is an appropriate candidate for LASIK or PRK. PRK may be a better choice for people whose eyes meet certain criteria (e.g., thin corneas). Your doctor will decide if PRK is right for you.

How long does the PRK procedure take?
PRK takes 10-15 minutes for both eyes. Plan to rest for the entire day after your surgery.

Continued.
**Is PRK painful?**

Topical anesthetic drops are given before PRK, so you will feel little or no pain or discomfort during the procedure. Most patients have discomfort for 2-3 days following surgery while the corneal surface heals. However, your corneal specialist will place a soft contact lens on your cornea so that you are not blinking against the treated surface. This will help reduce any discomfort. Your doctor may also prescribe an appropriate oral pain medication for the immediate postoperative period.

**What side effects can I expect after PRK?**

You may experience dry eye symptoms for a short time after your PRK procedure. You will be given artificial tears during this time of healing. Generally, the risk of permanent dry eye is lower with PRK than with LASIK.

**Can I drive home after PRK?**

No. You must be accompanied by someone who can escort you home after your procedure. You should not drive until you feel comfortable with your vision, which could be as soon as the next day.

**How soon can I go back to work?**

Most PRK patients can return to work in 3-5 days.

**What are the risks of PRK?**

PRK, like any other surgery, has risks and complications that should be carefully considered. All patients should have a thorough understanding of the risks, benefits and alternatives of PRK. Our specialists address these with you at your evaluation.

**Will I need glasses or contacts after PRK?**

Most patients experience improved vision that does not require glasses or contacts. However, there is no guarantee of perfect vision. You may require glasses as you get older for certain tasks. PRK does not eliminate the need for reading glasses after age 40.

**Will I need to return for follow-up visits?**

Your PRK result is very important to us. You will need to follow up for several visits immediately after your procedure and as needed afterward.

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