Your Guide to Laser Vision Correction

The Big Picture
How do eyes work?

Before we talk about Laser Vision Correction, it’s important to have a good grasp of the fundamentals. You may not be familiar with exactly how your eyes function. To help you better understand, here’s a quick overview:

It all begins with light rays, which reflect off objects and then enter the eyes through the cornea. Here, the light rays are bent and sent through the lens, where more bending helps to focus the light rays on the retina—giving you the miracle of clear sight.

For Important Safety Information, please refer to the last page.
**Cornea** - This clear, dome-shaped covering in the front of the eye acts as the eye's outer lens. Much like a window, the cornea controls light entering the eye. It also helps the eye focus.

**Iris & Pupil** - The iris is the colored part of the eye that controls how much light goes through the pupil.

**Lens** - This clear structure focuses light rays onto the retina.

**Vitreous Humour** - The transparent, jelly-like substance that fills the gap between the lens and the retina.

**Retina** - This nerve layer lines the back of the eye. The retina takes the light the eye receives and changes it into nerve signals so the brain can understand what the eye is seeing.

**Optic Nerve** - This bundle of over a million nerve fibers carries electrical signals from the retina to the brain to be translated into the image that we see.
All eyes are unique.

In a way, your eyes are like a peacock’s feather or a beautiful butterfly—no two are exactly alike. When eyes are shaped correctly, light rays bend and focus directly on the retina—generating crisp images. However, when eyes aren’t perfectly shaped, light rays focus on the wrong part of your eye—causing the unwanted blurriness that you’ve been experiencing.

For Important Safety Information, please refer to the last page.
Could Laser Vision Correction really help?

Whether you have myopia, hyperopia or astigmatism, Laser Vision Correction can improve your eyesight. LASIK surgery reshapes your cornea and, with the right equipment, puts the eyesight you’ve always dreamed of within reach.

Myopia (nearsighted)
Hyperopia (farsighted)
Astigmatism

You should not undergo LASIK surgery if you are pregnant or nursing; if you have a collagen vascular, autoimmune or immunodeficiency disease; if you show signs of keratoconus or any other condition that causes a thinning of your cornea; or if you are taking isotretinoin (Accutane*) or amiodarone hydrochloride (Cordarone*).
Could LASIK be right for you?
Could LASIK be right for you?

Having LASIK surgery is an important decision. That’s why it’s very critical to first speak with your surgeon to make sure you’re a good candidate. During your initial consultation, your surgeon may:

- Conduct an eye exam
- Verify if LASIK can improve your vision
- Check if your prescription has been stable for at least the past year
- Test for eye conditions that can affect your surgical options
- Make sure you’re comfortable with and knowledgeable about LASIK
- Help you understand what to expect from the procedure

Any type of surgery is a big step—so don’t forget to seek advice from your surgeon before you make any decisions. He or she may determine that a different procedure may be your best option.

For Important Safety Information, please refer to the last page.
“I was just fed up, tired of it all. Family members had it, and I thought, ‘what am I waiting for?’ I was tired of the inconvenience. I wish I had done it sooner.”¹*

You’ve heard about Laser Vision Correction – the procedure that just might be able to give you the freedom from glasses and contacts you’ve been looking for. You may be uncertain about what’s involved, but you’ve already taken the first step by learning more about the procedure to find out if it’s right for you.

*These are real results from actual patients. Although results are typical, individual results may vary.
A closer look at Laser Vision Correction.

In the initial evaluation, your doctor will determined whether you are a candidate for the procedure and if so, which type of treatment is most appropriate for your unique eye. During Laser Vision Correction, a surgeon uses a highly accurate laser to reshape your cornea, allowing it to bend light rays correctly. It’s quick and in most cases you can enjoy your improved vision almost immediately.

For Important Safety Information, please refer to the last page.
LASIK: A proven procedure.

When something as critical as your vision is being discussed, you should rely on a solution that delivers excellent vision and peace of mind. And although there are other, older types of Laser Vision Correction, LASIK is one of the most common, successful and advanced.

Don’t be afraid to ask questions
Any type of surgery is a big step—so don’t forget to seek advice from your surgeon before you make any decisions.

Is my vision bad enough?
There is no minimum amount of correction that’s required to have Laser Vision Correction. But only you and your doctor can decide if you are a good candidate for Laser Vision Correction.

What if I have astigmatism—does that disqualify me?
No. In fact, Laser Vision Correction can correct astigmatism as well.
Having LASIK surgery is an important decision. That’s why it’s crucial to first speak with your surgeon to make sure you’re a good candidate. During your initial consultation, your surgeon may:

- Conduct an eye exam
- Verify if LASIK can improve your vision
- Check if your prescription has been stable over a period of time
- Test for eye conditions that can affect your surgical options
- Make sure you’re comfortable with and knowledgeable about LASIK
- Help you understand what to expect from the procedure

For Important Safety Information, please refer to the last page.
LASIK: A proven procedure
Although individual results may vary, the majority of patients enjoy 20/20 vision or better after Laser Vision Correction.¹

**Nearsighted**
Mildly or moderately nearsighted patients—with or without astigmatism—see some of the best benefits and recover most quickly. A clinical study showed that six months after having Laser Vision Correction:¹*

- 93% achieved 20/20 vision.
- Nearly all achieved 20/40 vision or better. This is good enough to perform most daily activities without corrective lenses.

**Farsighted**
A clinical study of mildly or moderately farsighted patients who have had Laser Vision Correction show that after six months:²

- 83% achieved 20/25 vision.
- 95% achieved 20/40 vision or better. This is good enough to perform most daily activities without corrective lenses.

* Based on LASIK treatments only.
Important Safety Information about the WaveLight® Excimer Laser Systems

This information pertains to all WaveLight® Excimer Laser Systems, including the WaveLight® ALLEGRETTO WAVE®, the ALLEGRETTO WAVE® Eye-Q, and the WaveLight® EX500.

CAUTION: Federal (U.S.) law restricts the WaveLight® Excimer Laser Systems to sale by or on the order of a physician. Only practitioners who are experienced in the medical management and surgical treatment of the cornea, who have been trained in laser refractive surgery (including laser calibration and operation), should use a WaveLight® Excimer Laser System.

INDICATIONS: FDA has approved the WaveLight® Excimer Laser Systems for use in laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) treatments for nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia), and astigmatism, including mixed astigmatism. Astigmatism occurs if the shape of your eye causes light to bend and distort as it passes through your lens. With astigmatism, objects tend to appear blurry or unfocused. Mixed astigmatism occurs if you have symptoms of nearsightedness and farsightedness at the same time.

The WaveLight® Excimer Laser Systems are approved for the following specific LASIK treatments and ranges:

- Reduction or elimination of nearsightedness of up to -12.00 diopters of sphere and up to 6.00 diopters of astigmatism at the spectacle plane.
- Reduction or elimination of farsightedness up to +6.00 diopters of sphere and up to 5.00 diopters of astigmatism at the spectacle plane, with a maximum manifest refraction spherical equivalent of +6.00 diopters.
- Reduction or elimination of naturally occurring mixed astigmatism of up to 6.00 diopters at the spectacle plane.
- Wavefront-guided reduction or elimination of nearsightedness of up to -7.00 diopters of sphere and up to 3.00 diopters of astigmatism at the spectacle plane. Wavefront-guided LASIK treatment takes into account small, complex imperfections in the shape of your eye that can affect your vision. Wavefront-guided LASIK is more highly customized than traditional LASIK procedures.

The WaveLight® Excimer Laser Systems are only indicated for use in patients who are 18 years of age or older (21 years of age or older for mixed astigmatism), who have documented evidence that their refraction did not change by more than 0.50 diopters during the year before their preoperative examination.

ALTERNATIVES TO LASIK: LASIK is just one option for correcting your vision. Alternative options include eyeglasses, contact lenses, photorefractive keratectomy surgery (PRK), and other refractive surgeries. Be sure to talk to your doctor to find out if LASIK is appropriate for your condition.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: If you have any of the following situations or conditions, you should not have LASIK because the risk is greater than the benefit:

- You are pregnant or nursing. These conditions may cause temporary and unpredictable changes in your cornea and a LASIK treatment would improperly change the shape of your cornea.
- You have a collagen vascular, autoimmune or immunodeficiency disease, such as rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, lupus or AIDS. These conditions affect the body's ability to heal.
- You show signs of keratoconus or any other condition that causes a thinning of your cornea. This condition can lead to serious corneal problems during and after LASIK surgery. It may result in the need for additional surgery and may result in poor vision after LASIK.
- You are taking medications with ocular side effects, such as Isotretinoin (Accutane®) for acne treatment or Amiodarone hydrochloride (Cordarone®) for normalizing heart rhythm, because they may affect the accuracy of the LASIK treatment or the way your cornea heals after LASIK. This may result in poor vision after LASIK.

WARNINGS: If you have any of the following conditions, you should not have LASIK unless your doctor evaluates the seriousness of your condition and believes the benefit of having LASIK is greater than the risk:

- Systemic diseases likely to affect wound healing. If you have a systemic disease such as a connective tissue disease, severe atopic disease or are immunocompromised, LASIK may be risky for you because it may affect the ability of your eyes to heal.
- Diabetes. If you have diabetes and depend on insulin, LASIK may be risky for you because your diabetes may interfere with the healing of your eyes.
- History of Herpes simplex or Herpes zoster infection that has affected your eyes. If you have had a Herpes simplex or a Herpes zoster infection that affected your eyes, or have an infection now, LASIK is riskier for you.
- Symptoms of significant dry eye. If you have severely dry eyes, LASIK may increase dryness. This may or may not go away. This dryness may delay healing of the flap or interfere with the surface of the eye after surgery.
- Severe allergies. If you have severe allergies and take medicines for them, LASIK is riskier for you.

PRECAUTIONS: If any of the following conditions or situations apply to you, you should discuss them with your doctor:

- Your nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism or mixed astigmatism is getting better or worse. If your eyes are unstable, the right amount of treatment cannot be determined. This may result in poor vision after LASIK.
- You have an eye disease. It is unknown whether LASIK is safe and effective under this condition.
- You have a prior eye injury or eye surgery. If your eyes are injured or you have had surgery, it is unknown whether LASIK will weaken the cornea too much. This may result in poor vision after LASIK.
- You have a corneal abnormality (e.g., scar, irregular astigmatism, infection, etc.). An abnormal corneal condition may affect the accuracy of the LASIK treatment and the way your cornea heals after LASIK. This may result in poor vision after LASIK.
- Your corneas are too thin. If your corneas are too thin to allow your doctor to create a proper flap during the LASIK procedure, you can't have LASIK because it is necessary to have a flap.
- You have a history of glaucoma or high eye pressure. It is unknown whether LASIK is safe and effective for you.
- You take medications that might make it harder for wounds to heal, such as sumatriptan succinate (Imitrex®) for migraine headaches. It is unknown whether LASIK is safe and effective for people who take these medicines.
- You are younger than 18 years of age (21 years for mixed astigmatism). It is unknown whether LASIK is safe and effective for you.
- Your doctor may modify the wavefront-calculated ablation program in order to give you a treatment that does not fully correct distance vision. You should discuss the risks in depth with your doctor for any LASIK corrections that do not fully correct for distance vision, especially if performed only in one eye.
- You have a cataract or other problem with the lens or vitreous of your eye. It is unknown whether LASIK is safe and effective under this condition.
- You have any problems with the iris (colored part) of your eye or have had previous surgery on this part of your eye. The eye tracker on the laser may not work properly and LASIK may not be safe and effective for you.

You are taking prescription or over-the-counter medications that may affect the ability of your eye to heal after surgery, including antihistamines.
- Your doctor plans to use a treatment zone with the laser < 6.0 millimeters or > 6.5 millimeters in diameter. It is unknown whether LASIK with these treatment zones is safe and effective for you.
- Your nearsightedness is worse than –12.00 diopters, or with astigmatism that is worse than 6.00 diopters. It is unknown whether LASIK is safe and effective for you.
- Your farsightedness is worse than +6.00 diopters, or with astigmatism that is worse than 5.00 diopters. It is unknown whether LASIK is safe and effective for you.
- Your mixed astigmatism is worse than 6.00 diopters. It is unknown whether LASIK is safe and effective for you. Your mixed astigmatism is > 4.00 diopters + 6.00 diopters. Due to the lack of large numbers of patients in the general population, there are few subjects with cylinder amounts in this range to be studied. Not all complications, adverse events, and levels of effectiveness may have been determined.
- You have large pupils. Before surgery your doctor should measure your pupil size under dim lighting conditions. Effects of treatment on vision under poor illumination cannot be predicted prior to surgery. Some patients may find it more difficult to see in conditions such as dim light, rain, fog, snow and glare from bright lights. This has been shown to occur more frequently when the entire prescription has not been fully corrected and perhaps in patients with pupil sizes larger than the treatment area.

Your doctor should evaluate you for dry eye before surgery. You may have dry eye after LASIK surgery even if you did not have dry eye before surgery.

It is not known whether LASIK with a WaveLight® Excimer Laser System is effective over the long term (more than 12 months).