

## LASIK FAQ

At Complete Eye Care, we're used to the following question during a routine eye exam: "Is LASIK an option for me?"

We understand that many people who have to wear glasses or contacts regularly would love to experience the freedom and convenience of not having to do so. However, LASIK is not the right choice for everyone. If you're near our Lawton, OK or Newcastle, OK locations and are curious about LASIK, here are some FAQs that may help:

### **What Exactly is LASIK?**

LASIK stands for "Laser In-Situ Keratomileusis." It is a surgical procedure that creates a thin access flap across the cornea and then uses precision lasers to shape the lens of the eye. This will correct refractive errors (eye shapes that bend light improperly and cause poor vision). This corrective surgery is not for all vision problems, however, and it is generally only successful when used on myopia, hyperopia and astigmatism.

### **How Long is the Recovery Time?**

LASIK is a popular procedure not just because it means no longer having to use corrective lenses, but also because it involves very little downtime. While redness and sensitivity to light are extremely common following the procedure, the majority of patients recover in a matter of days. You can have LASIK one week and then be ready to go back to work and take on the world within a week.

### **How Do I Know if I Am a Candidate for LASIK?**

Your optometrist will need to perform an eye exam before approving you for any kind of corrective eye surgery. Even if you do have myopia, hyperopia or astigmatism, the exact shape of your eye or the presence of other conditions may mean that LASIK will not be effective. LASIK may also not be appropriate for people with certain autoimmune disorders or those of advanced age.

### **Can LASIK Be Done at the Eye Doctor's Office?**

As a surgical procedure, albeit a relatively minor one, LASIK should only be done in a surgical setting. In most cases, this means it will have to be done at your local hospital. Your eye doctor and eye surgeon will talk with you ahead of time about where the procedure will need to be performed and why.

### **Are There Any Alternatives to LASIK?**

The fact remains that not everyone is eligible for LASIK. Depending on your exact condition, there may be some alternatives available. For example, PRK or "Photorefractive Keratectomy" is a procedure where the surgeon gently removes the top layer of the cornea to reshape it. A consultation with your eye doctor is necessary to determine your candidacy for any corrective eye surgery.

Live in Oklahoma and want to learn more about LASIK? Make an appointment with our team at Complete Eye Care today! With convenient optometrist locations in Lawton and Newcastle, we're here to help all OK patients receive the eye care they need.

