

**LASIK** surgery is a breakthrough technique that frees the average patient from the tedious use of glasses and contact lenses. Imagine being able to do just about everything without having to reach for your glasses or contacts.

## What is LASIK?

Using the computer-controlled accuracy of the excimer laser, the surface of the eye is reshaped so that images focus more clearly. The procedure offers quick recovery due to the flap of a Lamellar Keratoplasty, and greatly reduces the patient's dependence on corrective eyewear. LASIK is quickly becoming the refractive procedure choice by many refractive surgeons.

## Is LASIK right for you?

Although LASIK will reduce your dependence on eyewear, the success of LASIK depends mainly on the patient's eyes. LASIK works well for most people, but the results may not always be 20/20. Some patients over the age of 40 may find that they need to wear reading glasses after LASIK.

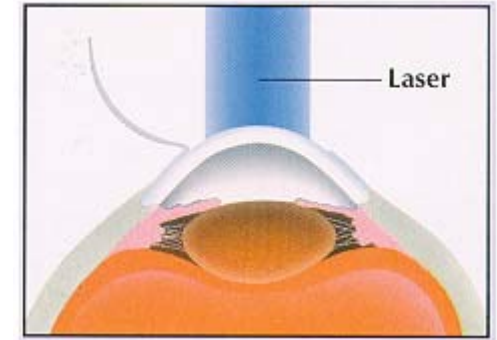
You may be a good candidate if your vision is stable with or without astigmatism, and you have no other eye problems.

## Your Consultation

The doctor will examine your eyes prior to surgery to determine if the LASIK procedure is right for you. You will be dilated, and your refraction will be measured. A Corneal Topography will be taken of your eyes to measure the corneal curvature and contour. These tests will decide whether or not LASIK will be an effective procedure for you.

## How is LASIK performed?

LASIK is an outpatient procedure that takes less than an hour to perform. The patient is given anesthesia in eye drop form. Then the doctor lifts a thin layer of your cornea called the corneal cap. The excimer laser radiates your cornea with a high-energy ultraviolet light to reshape it. This alteration correctly refocuses or refracts the light entering the eye, adjusting the level at which you see.



Once the cornea has been reshaped, the corneal cap is replaced to its original position. No stitches are required, and the postoperative discomfort is minimal. Many patients will see a dramatic improvement within the first day. Normal activities can be resumed within a day or two.

## Postoperative Directions

- ❑ Do Not Rub Your Eyes. Protect your eyes from getting bumped as it heals.
- ❑ Use all medications given to you by the doctor exactly as directed.
- ❑ Wear sunglasses when outdoors.
- ❑ Return to work as directed by your doctor.
- ❑ Don't drive until your vision fully clears.
- ❑ Avoid swimming, active sports and wearing eye make-up until approved by your doctor.

## How is Your Progress Evaluated?

Your doctor will set-up several follow up appointments to check your healing progress. Depending on the first procedure's effectiveness, a second treatment may be necessary to correct your vision. In some cases, glasses and contact lenses may still be necessary employing a weaker prescription. Since your eyes will be done one at a time, the doctor may wait to see the results of your first eye before proceeding with your other eye.

## Will LASIK work for me?

To answer this question, you must first have a complete eye examination to determine your refractive error and the health of your eyes.

**If you are interested in LASIK, please call our office for your consultation today!**



Ernst Nicolitz, M.D. is a board certified ophthalmologist and fellowship trained in oculoplastics surgery. He is a published surgeon in cosmetic surgery and a leader in cataract and laser surgeries. The team at Nicolitz Eye Consultants includes two ophthalmologists, Drs. Chiel Wind and David Mills and two optometric physicians, Drs. Jennifer Henson and Louis Catania. Our team of physicians utilizes the latest in ophthalmic diagnostic equipment. Along with Dr. Nicolitz, the entire professional and support staff are available to serve your complete eye care needs.

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# LASIK

## Corrective Surgery Employing an Excimer Laser

