1. How do I know which vision correction procedure is best for me?

Currently LASIK and PRK are the most routinely performed vision correction procedures world-wide. However, there are other procedures available such as Implantable contact lenses, Phakic Cache lenses and Refractive Lens Exchange. Your surgeon will advise you of the procedures for which you are suitable on the day of your consultation.

2. Am I suitable?

You must undergo a detailed assessment by an ophthalmologist. During this consultation, the surgeon can determine which type of Refractive Surgery you are suitable for. Generally a suitable candidate would fulfil the following criteria:

- Over 18 years of age
- Stable glasses or contact lens prescription for at least 1 year.
- No underlying eye diseases and in good general health.
- Not pregnant or breastfeeding.

3. How long does the procedure take?

While the procedure time is relatively short, you will need to be at the Laser Centre for two to three hours on the day of surgery. This will ensure that all the necessary pre-operative and post-operative checks can be performed.

4. What can I expect on the day of procedure?

You will be greeted by our friendly and professional treatment team who will familiarise you with the proceedings for the day. Before entering the theatre, drops are instilled and an antiseptic preparation is applied around the eyes. All Laser procedures are day procedures. Most patients find there is very little discomfort during the treatment. There are no needles used. You will lie flat on a bed beneath the laser equipment and be instructed to look at a flashing red target light. The laser is on for approximately 30 seconds. You will not feel it.

5. How does the excimer laser work?

Excimer lasers use reactive gases that, when electrically stimulated, produce light in the ultraviolet range. The Excimer laser is a cool laser, which means that it does not heat up the surrounding air or surfaces. Instead, a very tightly-focused beam of ultraviolet light is
emitted. The ultraviolet light is absorbed by the cornea, resulting in the underlying tissue being sculpted into a new shape to correct the refractive error. The ultraviolet beam of light only penetrates a microscopic amount, less than a nanometer (a billionth of a meter), into the surface of the cornea. The Excimer laser is incredibly precise. It has the ability to focus a beam as small as 0.25 microns. Considering that a typical human hair is 50 microns in diameter, which means that the Excimer laser is capable of removing 0.5 percent of a human hair's width at a time.

6. What if I move while the laser is on?

The laser has a missile like tracker which follows any little movements you make. If you make any large movements the laser automatically turns off. Therefore, we cannot laser the wrong part of your eye.

7. Do I need to take time off work and driving?

LASIK patients recover approximately 90% of their vision within 24 hours. Depending upon your occupation, most patients find they can return to work and driving within 1-2 days following the treatment. PRK patients recover their vision a little more slowly, as the surface re-heals, so a longer period off duties may be required (normally seven to ten days).

8. What are the risks?

Laser vision correction using Excimer lasers have been performed on millions of individuals worldwide since 1991. Any surgical procedure carries some degree of risk. Serious complications occur very infrequently and usually do not have an impact on the final visual result. Some complications can delay full recovery for several weeks to months. The chance of a complication occurring that harms the visual outcome in the long term is rare and is much less than 1%. However, it is important to discuss your individual risks with your surgeon.

9. What is the success rate of Laser Vision Correction?

Laser vision correction is a highly successful procedure. Generally, the level of your glasses prescription will determine what your achieved result is likely to be. Your potential for glasses-free vision will be discussed in detail during your clinical consultations.

10. Can Laser Vision Correction help me throw away my reading glasses?

If you are over 40 years old and currently wear glasses for reading you may be suitable for monovision. The aging condition, known as Presbyopia, is a gradual deterioration in your near vision and occurs whether you are long/short sighted or have never worn glasses. Monovision can provide a solution for this aging condition. This is when one eye is corrected for near and the other eye is corrected for distance. If you are interested in
monovision, you need to trial this with contact lenses to see if you can adapt. Please advise the Orthoptist or ophthalmologist on the day of your consultation if you would like to consider monovision.

Consultation

Should you require a consultation for refractive surgery, please call 1800 986 695

At Eye Surgery Associates we can assist you with an appointment at any one of our three sites: East Melbourne, Malvern and Doncaster.

More references

You may find useful information at the following sites: