



Surgical – Vision Correction – Laser Eye Surgery Options - Downloadable Fact Sheet

VISION

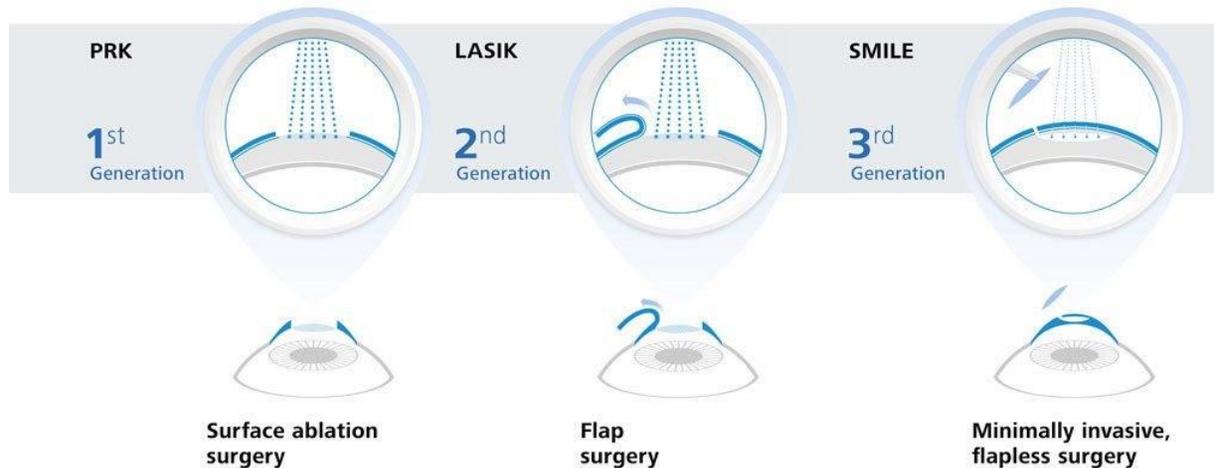
Loss of vision can be caused by a number of things. Acute or sudden vision loss can be caused by a retinal detachment, a stroke in the vessels in the eye or in patients with diabetes from bleeding in the eye, whereas slow vision loss is most commonly caused by cataracts, glaucoma or macular degeneration. Patients with slow vision loss often don't notice it until it becomes severe. For many people who suffer from a decrease in visual acuity as a result of cataracts or glaucoma there are surgical options available. Ninety percent of patients can achieve a corrected vision of 20/40 or better as a result of cataract surgery. During the procedure the cataract is removed and, in most cases, replaced with an artificial lens called an intraocular lens implant (IOL). The IOL is typically used to correct cataracts, and in some cases also short-sightedness and long-sightedness but it doesn't correct astigmatism. LASIK can correct short-sightedness, long-sightedness, and astigmatism.

AN OVERVIEW OF LASER EYE SURGERY TREATMENT TYPES

The first thing to understand is that there are different kinds of laser eye surgical procedures, depending on the problem that needs to be corrected and our patient's prescription. Let's take a quick look at the most popular procedures:

Type of Procedure	What is it?	Who is it for?
PRK (Photorefractive Keratotomy)	This is the oldest type of laser eye treatment and involves the removal of the epithelium in order to access the cornea. The cornea is reshaped with laser and the patient will then have to wear a protective lens during the recovery period.	This is rarely used these days but is a good alternative to LASIK and LASEK for people with very thin corneas who would otherwise not be considered as candidates for laser eye treatment.
LASIK (Laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis)	This is the most common type of laser treatment and is relatively painless. It involves creating a flap in the cornea, peeling it back to expose the stromal layer. The cornea is then reshaped with a laser beam and the flap is replaced afterwards.	This procedure is suitable for people with common sight problems, such as nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism.
LASEK (Laser-assisted epithelial keratomileusis)	In this procedure, the epithelium (the thin layer of cells that cover the cornea) is peeled back, exposing the Bowman's layer. This is then reshaped with a laser beam and the epithelium is replaced.	This treatment is the most viable option for patients with thin corneas and is a good alternative to LASIK surgery.
Wavefront	Wavefront is a type of technology utilized in LASIK and LASEK procedures. Special software creates a map of the patient's eye to give an accurate picture of the aberrations to be corrected. The map is then loaded into the computer that controls the laser to let it	This customized treatment is designed to be an alternative to standard LASIK and LASEK procedures. This is perfect for people who rely on perfect vision for their jobs, such as airline pilots.

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	reshape the cornea exactly to the patient's specific requirements.	
SMILE (Small Incision Lenticule Extraction)	This is a new, minimally invasive laser eye treatment which offers a great alternative to LASEK and LASIK treatment. Rather than creating a flap in the cornea for the laser, this procedure involves making a small hole in the cornea using a state-of-the-art laser that places a series of pulses in the center of the cornea.	It is generally used for correcting higher degrees of myopia with or without astigmatism. More people are suitable for this treatment than for LASEK and LASIK treatment.



WHY SHOULD YOU AVOID THE CHEAPEST LASER EYE SURGERY?

- It's tempting to opt for a clinic offering the cheapest prices for laser eye surgery but it is worth remembering that even if you are eligible for the cheapest treatment (many people will not qualify due to their prescription), it can cost you more in the long run physically and financially if it isn't 100% effective.
- Ensuring you're being operated on by a fully qualified surgeon in a renowned clinic is the safest way to make sure your surgery is high quality, safe and effective.

Are you ready to get started? [Contact us](#) today to schedule your consultation!

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