

LASIK

L A S E R A S S I S T E D I N - S I T U K E R A T O M I L E U S I S

Frequently Asked Questions

You've always dreamed of waking up with clear vision, being able to enjoy sports and outdoor activities, and finally saying goodbye to your dependency on glasses and contacts. Now's your chance to make your dreams come true!

Let Southern Eye Associates bring your world back into focus so you can begin to enjoy life without glasses or contacts. Leading edge technology, experienced surgeons, compassionate staff, in-office surgical suite, sensitive pricing, and high patient satisfaction are the reasons why Southern Eye Associates is a prominent LASIK center in the mid-south.

You probably have several questions about LASIK, so we've compiled a list of frequently asked questions to help you understand the procedure. Should you have any questions that aren't covered in this booklet, please do not hesitate to call us at **(901) 255-5603** to speak with a member of our technical staff.

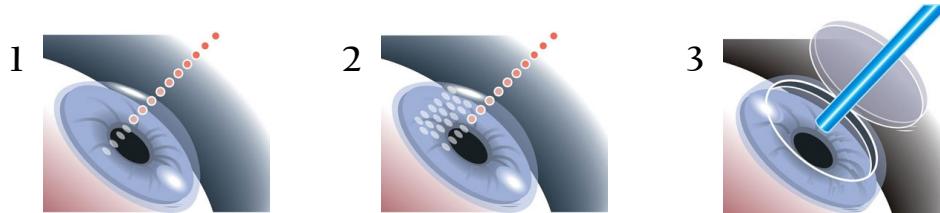
See the difference with Southern Eye Associates. We're here to provide you with the service you deserve!



Frequently Asked Questions

How is LASIK performed?

LASIK (Laser Assisted In-Situ Keratomileusis) is a vision correction procedure that permanently changes the shape of the cornea (the clear front portion of the eye) to redirect light entering the eye and correctly focusing it on the back of the eye. After administration of a topical anesthesia (eye drops), the procedure is performed by folding back a thin layer of corneal tissue (the flap) and then reshaping the underlying layer of cornea with the light from the Excimer laser. After the laser treatment, the flap is replaced where it will bond back to the underlying cornea without the need for stitches. The result of correcting the thin layers of tissue causes the center of the cornea to flatten in the case of myopia (nearsightedness), steepen in the case of hyperopia (farsightedness), or become more rounded in the case of astigmatism, thus changing the focusing power of the cornea without the need of glasses or contact lenses.



Is the procedure painful?

LASIK is essentially painless. Before the procedure, your eyes will be numbed with anesthetic eye drop. Some patients may experience a feeling of light pressure from the lid speculum (the instrument used to hold your eyelids open) or from the instrument used to create the corneal flap. Frequent use of artificial tears following LASIK will help prevent the feeling of dry, scratchy eyes and will also greatly aid in the eye's healing process.

Will my vision be 20/20 after the procedure?

You will likely notice a significant improvement in vision immediately following the procedure, but your vision is likely to fluctuate for a few days as the eyes heal. Your vision will continue to clear during the first week following LASIK. Although the goal of LASIK is to improve vision to the point of not being dependent on glasses or contacts, we cannot guarantee that your vision will be 20/20. You can rest assured that we will take extreme care during the measurement process and will take every precaution to ensure that your results are to your satisfaction.

What are the risks and side effects of LASIK surgery?

Every surgery has risks as well as benefits. LASIK has a 1% complication rate, and the vast majority of these complications are treatable or can be corrected with an additional LASIK procedure. Some risks and side effects of LASIK include over- or under-correction, increased sensitivity to light, glare or halos around lights at night, or dry eyes. You should be aware that there is a risk of infection, which can result in irregular scarring or loss of vision if not treated correctly. Studies have shown that you have a greater chance of being injured or killed in a car accident than you have for losing vision due to an infection after LASIK surgery. These and other complications will be fully discussed with you prior to your LASIK procedure.



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Will both eyes be done on the same day?

In most cases, both eyes are treated on the same day. This will allow you to take the proper medications for each eye at the same time, since eye drops may be used for several weeks before and after the procedure, and will reduce the amount of office visits for your pre- and post-op care.

How long is the procedure?

Although the procedure itself generally lasts under 15 minutes for both eyes, you should plan to be at our office for at least two hours on the day of surgery to account for pre-op preparations and post-op evaluations.

Will I ever need glasses again?

Although the goal of LASIK is to improve vision to the point of not being dependent on glasses or contacts, we cannot guarantee that your vision will be 20/20 following the procedure. You should understand that your eyes will continue to change as you age, possibly causing you to develop myopia (nearsightedness) or hyperopia (farsightedness) over a length of time, though it is rare. Most people will eventually develop presbyopia (the loss of reading vision) sometime after the age of 40 and will require the use of reading glasses. Presently, LASIK cannot treat presbyopia. Additional treatments or other procedures (such as CK for presbyopia) are available to correct the above refractive errors.

Will my insurance cover LASIK surgery?

The majority of insurance carriers has deemed LASIK as an elective surgery and will not cover the cost of the procedure, although more insurance companies have recently begun to cover LASIK as a medical procedure. You will need to check with your insurance carrier by calling their customer service phone number to determine if they will cover the cost. Southern Eye Associates is not able to file insurance for LASIK surgery, but some patients are able to receive reimbursement from their insurance carrier. We also offer easy financing through Chase Health Advance if you are interested in a **no interest monthly payment plan**. You can learn more by visiting www.chasehealthadvance.com or by calling their toll-free number at 800-510-5638.

Are there certain restrictions following the procedure?

Most patients are able to return to work two to three days following their procedure. You should be prepared to use eye drops for several weeks before and after LASIK to prevent infection and help the healing process. Frequent use of artificial tears will greatly improve your vision results. Your eyes may be more susceptible to traumatic eye injury after LASIK, so protective eyewear is recommended for all sports where a direct blow to the eye may occur. You will also be asked to wear a clear protective shield over each eye when sleeping for the first two weeks to help prevent unconscious rubbing of the eyes which can lead to a misplaced flap and other complications.

Can I still wear contacts after LASIK?

Most patients will not require contact lenses after the procedure. If the eyes have been under- or over- corrected, they can usually be enhanced, or fine-tuned, with another procedure. If you still wish to wear contacts following surgery, you should be able to without any difficulty (if you could before having the procedure).

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Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

How long has LASIK been available?

Dr. Cathy Schanzer is a board-certified ophthalmologist who has been performing LASIK surgery since its FDA approval to treat myopia (nearsightedness) in the mid-1990's and has performed thousands of LASIK surgeries. Dr. Schanzer, also known in Memphis as "The Eye Doctor's Doctor," receives patient referrals from over 300 mid-south optometrists and has treated many of the area's doctors and their family members as well.

What equipment do you use for LASIK?

We are proud to offer one of the only IntraLase 100% blade-free LASIK methods in the Mid-South, allowing a more precise customized corneal flap for each patient. Southern Eye Associates was the first in the tri-state area to offer LASIK using the scanning slit beam technology provided by the NIDEK EC-5000 Excimer laser and the Nidek OPD-Scan, which utilizes wavefront technology to help us deliver individualized correction using a "fingerprint" of your vision.

