

# Know the Risks About LASIK



## SURGICAL RISKS AND POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS:

**OVER-RESPONSE OR UNDER-RESPONSE TO TREATMENT** It is possible that my treatment could result in an unintended under- response or over- response that may require the continued use of glasses or contact lenses after my surgery has been performed.



**CHANGE IN OR INDUCING ASTIGMATISM** The surgical procedure I am undergoing may also change my astigmatism or induce astigmatism even if I did not have one prior to the procedure.



**INFECTION OR INFLAMMATION** Although infrequent, another risk is the possibility of infection or inflammation during the healing of the cornea. This may result in permanently decreased vision. I understand that to achieve good results from the procedure, it is important that I follow my doctor's recommendations regarding post-operative medications, activities, and restrictions.



**HAZE** Some patients experience haze (or corneal cloudiness). Haze is not the initial blurriness experienced immediately after treatment. Rather, haze may become evident in the weeks and months after surgery. PRK and LASEK procedures have higher risks of haze than LASIK. Haze is difficult to treat and may result in loss of best-corrected visual acuity, including permanent loss of visual sharpness or clarity.



**NIGHT GLARE** I may experience night-glare, as a "starburst," a "halo effect," or haze around lights in the nighttime. Some degree of night glare can be expected in many patients. It usually is tolerable and resolves in time, but on occasion could be permanent. Patients with high myopia or high astigmatism are at a greater risk of experiencing these problems, as are patients with large pupils. Dry eyes, as well as over or under response, may also result in night glare.

**NIGHT VISION** Vision may not seem as sharp at night as during the day. In some cases, corrective lenses may help me see clearly at night. Corrective lenses may not be able to compensate for some loss of night vision.



**INCREASED SENSITIVITY** There may be an increased sensitivity to light or glare.

**BLURRINESS** Blurriness is common in the healing process. While blurriness generally clears in several days, it may take longer to clear, and could remain permanently.

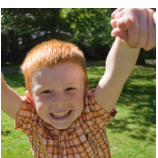


**LOSS OF BEST-CORRECTED VISUAL ACUITY** There is a risk of loss of best corrected visual acuity. For most patients, visual acuity will have stabilized in about 3 to 6 months, although full recovery, especially for PRK, may take 4 to 12 months. A small percentage of patients develop irregular corneas that reduce the sharpness, clarity and crispness of their vision. If this happens, I may not be able to read the last few lines of the eye chart, regardless of corrective lens assistance.



**CORNEAL FLAP COMPLICATIONS** There is also a small risk I may develop a corneal flap complication. A flap complication may require my procedure to be stopped or postponed for several months. I have read the information in the Patient Information Booklet regarding these complications and understand these risks.

**LASIK FLAP RE-LIFTING PROCEDURES** may be required after my original procedure for conditions such as flap striae or wrinkles, debris, epithelial in-growth, inflammation or other reasons.



## Know the Risks About LASIK *continued*

**READING GLASSES** If I am over 40 years of age and have laser vision correction to correct both eyes for distance vision, I will likely need reading glasses in order to see objects approximately 3 feet and closer, either now, or sometime in the next several years. This condition is called Presbyopia, and it begins to affect most people after the age of 40. If I am age 40 or older, I acknowledge that I have requested and received a separate education sheet on Presbyopia. I understand that Monovision, like reading glasses, is one of several solutions for Presbyopia, and if I am considering Monovision, I have requested and received a separate informed consent form for Monovision.

**DRYNESS** I may experience dryness of my eyes and this dryness may cause severe irritation, discomfort, and blurring of vision for several weeks, or longer, and could rarely be permanent. I may need to use artificial tears, eye ointments, prescription medication, or punctal plugs for an indefinite period of time. Post menopausal women may be at higher risk for developing dry eyes. Some medications may also cause dry eyes.

**DOUBLE VISION** I may experience double or ghosted vision, which may go away with time. If it does not go away, I may need enhancements after my procedure, which may or may not help this issue.

**ECTASIA or KERATOCONUS** I could develop keratoconus, in which the cornea progressively begins to thin and bulge. Keratoconus is a degenerative corneal condition affecting vision. Keratoconus can be difficult to diagnose in its early stages, and if I have keratoconus and laser vision correction surgery, the degeneration of my cornea might or might not accelerate. I may develop keratoconus even if I do not have Laser Vision Correction surgery. My cornea could also become weakened from the thinning of laser vision correction, and begin to bulge and take on an irregular shape. This is known as ectasia. While there are several tests that suggest which patients might be at risk, these conditions can develop in patients who have a normal preoperative profile regarding the shape and thickness of their cornea. There is no way to completely eliminate the risks of ectasia with LASIK, PRK or LASEK. Patients having Lasik are at higher risks for ectasia than patients having PRK or LASEK. My doctor may recommend PRK as a way to lower the risk of ectasia, but there is no guarantee that I will not develop this condition. Keratoconus or ectasia can distort vision. Severe keratoconus or ectasia may be treatable with a corneal transplant, while mild keratoconus or ectasia may be treatable with special contact lenses.

**FURTHER TREATMENT** Further treatment, including hospitalization, may be necessary. Further treatment could include a variety of eyedrops, the wearing of glasses and/or contact lenses (hard or soft), or additional surgical or laser correction (enhancements). Follow-up visits will be required. If I do not follow my doctor's orders regarding follow-up care, I may be jeopardizing the healing process or long term health of my eye(s).

**EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTION** The microkeratome or femtosecond (in LASIK) or the excimer laser (in LASIK, PRK, and Epi-LASIK) could malfunction, requiring the procedure to be stopped before completion. In some instances, the malfunction may not be detected until after the procedure. Depending on the type of malfunction, this may or may not be accompanied by visual loss.

**RISK TO BOTH EYES.** If I have both eyes treated on the same day, complications could develop in both eyes at the same time. As a patient, it is my choice for treatment of one eye at a time or both eyes on the same day.

**OTHER COMPLICATIONS** As with all types of surgery, there is a possibility I may experience other complications, including those due to drug reactions. I have discussed this possibility with the LasikPlus staff and understand that it is impossible to be informed of all potential risks of any surgery, including laser vision corrective procedures. I have provided my surgeon and the LasikPlus staff with complete and up to date information regarding prescription and over the counter medications I take, any drug allergies and my pre-existing medical conditions, including prior surgeries, degenerative conditions, active or preexisting eye disorders and any previous eye treatments. Complications may occur that require additional medical care, treatments, tests, medicines or surgery and this care or surgery may be at my expense.