

A LASIK Q&A: 6 of your top questions answered



You have a lot of questions about LASIK surgery? Good. Every year, 600,000 Americans undergo corrective LASIK surgery, a revolutionary procedure that's continued to improve since it's FDA approval more than 20 years ago.¹

Let's look at some of the most common questions asked when considering LASIK, so you can go in with eyes wide open.

Q: What is LASIK, anyway?

A: LASIK is an out-patient procedure that corrects common vision problems caused by nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. In the first step of the procedure, the doctor makes a thin corneal flap as fine as a human hair. Next, the doctor guides a precision laser to remove microscopic amounts of tissue and reshape the corneas, restoring accurate sight.²

The surgery takes about 15 minutes and many patients have immediate results and quick recovery.³

Q: How do I know if LASIK is right for me?

A: Whether LASIK is the best option depends first on how comfortable you are with your vision and corrective lenses. If lifestyle activities and/or work make it difficult to wear glasses or contact lenses regularly, LASIK may be right for you.

After performing a comprehensive LASIK exam, your doctor will determine whether LASIK is a good option.

Q: Am I a good candidate?

A: To qualify for LASIK surgery, patients must be at least 18 years old, in general good health, clear of eye conditions that could impede the healing process and have a stable vision prescription for at least 1 year.⁴

Q: Is LASIK covered by insurance?

A: LASIK discounts, such as those offered to EyeMed members, may be included in vision care coverage, so it's worth checking with an HR representative or benefits provider. LASIK also is eligible under most health savings and flexible spending benefits accounts, which means you can apply pre-tax dollars towards your LASIK procedure.

Q: Does LASIK last forever?

A: In very few cases, a second treatment may be necessary due to natural vision changes caused by systemic disease or hormonal changes that occur as we age.⁵

Q: Who should I talk to for more information?

A: Anyone considering LASIK should see a LASIK provider to perform a comprehensive LASIK exam and field questions about corrective-surgery options. EyeMed members can get a free LASIK consultation from a network of providers who've undergone stringent credentialing.

[Learn more about LASIK and find a provider near you today.](#)

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1. "Benefits of LASIK eye surgery," <https://yoursightmatters.com/benefits-of-lasik-eye-surgery/>; accessed March 2020.

2. "The LASIK procedure: a brief guide"; By Brian S. Boxer Wachler, April 2019, AllAboutVision.com; <https://www.allaboutvision.com/visionsurgery/lasik.htm>; accessed February 2020.

"LASIK eye surgery makes rapid advancements," LasikPlus; <https://www.lasikplus.com/lasik-resources/procedure/laser-eye-surgery-advancements/>; accessed February 2020.

3. "What to expect when you're expecting...LASIK,"; LASIKPlus; <https://www.lasikplus.com/lasik-resources/procedure/what-to-expect-lasik/>; accessed February 2020.

4. “When is LASIK not for me?”; U.S. Food & Drug Administration; <https://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/SurgeryandLifeSupport/LASIK/ucm061366.htm>; accessed February 2020.

5. “How vision changes as you age” by Gary Heiting; All About Vision; <https://www.allaboutvision.com/over60/vision-changes.htm>; accessed February 2020.

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