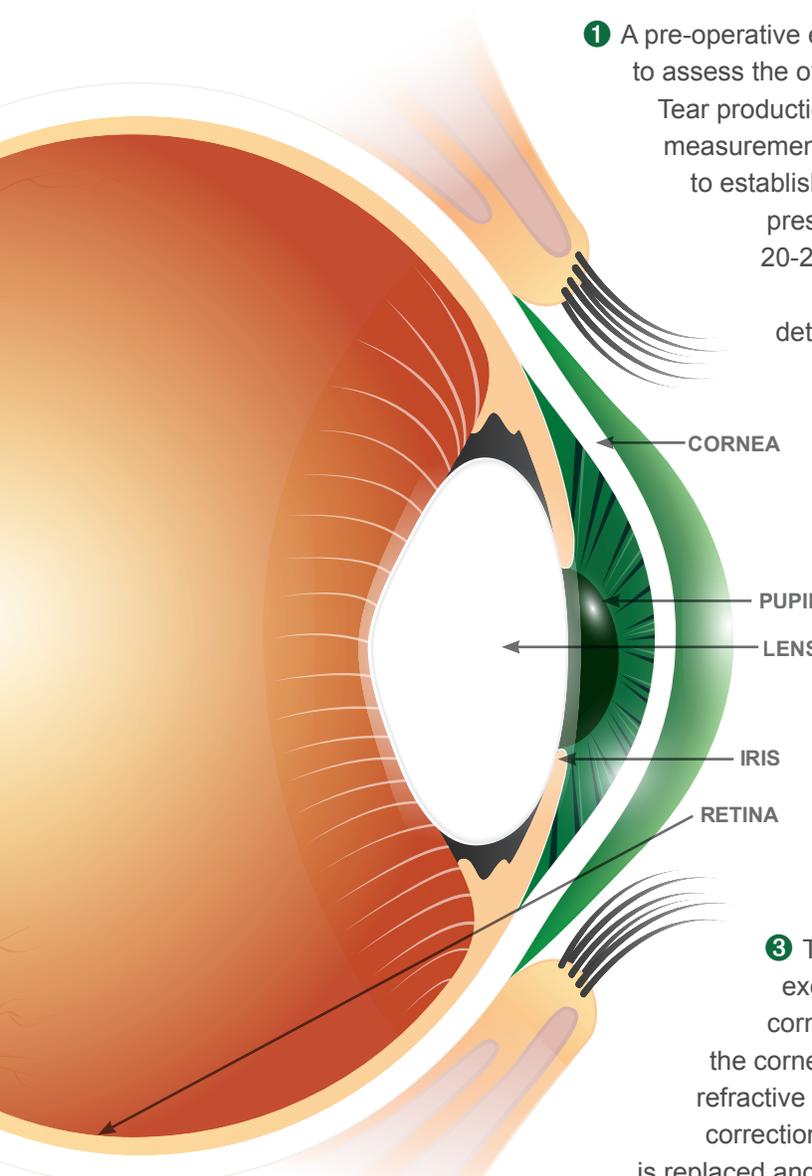


LASIK TODAY

LASIK – the acronym for Laser Assisted In Situ Keratomileusis – is an elective surgical procedure offering a safe and effective option for vision correction. LASIK uses state-of-the-art laser technologies and is a popular and virtually painless option for reducing or eliminating the need for glasses and/or contact lenses. To date, nearly 16 million LASIK procedures have been performed in the U.S. In LASIK surgery, a specially trained eye surgeon (an ophthalmologist) reshapes the **cornea** of the eye to improve the focus of light onto the **retina** (refraction), providing clear vision for most tasks. The LASIK procedure is performed in the following steps:

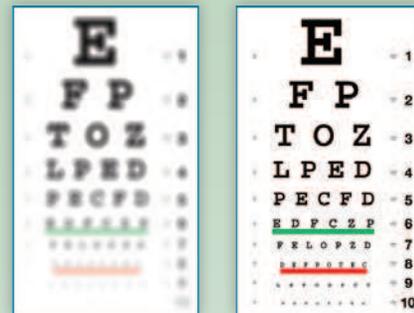


1 A pre-operative evaluation is conducted to assess the overall health of the eye. Tear production, pupil size and other measurements are taken in addition to establishing the patient's vision prescription. Approximately 20-25 percent of individuals seeking LASIK are determined to be ineligible during pre-operative screenings.

2 After numbing the eye with anesthetic drops, the surgeon first creates a very thin flap in the cornea using either a microkeratome or a femtosecond laser. This flap is gently folded back to reveal the inner cornea or stroma.

3 The surgeon applies an excimer laser to the inner corneal surface, reshaping the cornea to remove or reduce refractive errors. Once the vision correction is completed, the flap is replaced and the procedure is over.

Typically, patients experience an immediate improvement in their vision quality that increases with the healing process.



Approved Uses of LASIK

The lasers used in LASIK are FDA approved. LASIK is used to treat adults who are nearsighted, farsighted or have astigmatism:

- **Nearsightedness** (myopia): Too much curvature of the cornea, resulting in blurred distance vision. The surgeon flattens the central corneal surface, enabling light to focus on the retina.
- **Farsightedness** (hyperopia): Too little curvature of the cornea, resulting in blurred close-up vision. The surgeon flattens the peripheral or outer edge of the cornea, causing the center to steepen and increase its focusing power.
- **Astigmatism**: Irregularity in the curvature of the cornea or the lens of the eye, resulting in distorted vision at all distances. The surgeon uses the laser to selectively reshape some portions of the cornea, flattening the steeper areas as needed.