



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We have compiled a list of frequently asked questions about laser vision correction, also known as refractive surgery. If you cannot find the answers that you are looking for, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF I AM A CANDIDATE FOR PRK, LASIK, SMILE, OR RLE?

A consultation with one of our doctors is required to determine if you are a candidate for laser vision correction. If you are a good candidate, this consultation will also act as your pre-operative evaluation.

### HOW MUCH DO YOUR PROCEDURES COST?

Before your procedure, we will work with your insurance company to determine if your insurance plan has full or partial coverage for laser vision correction and give you a quote. Money deposited into HSA and FSA accounts also qualify to be used for laser vision correction.

### CAN I FINANCE MY LASER VISION CORRECTION?

We offer CareCredit® as an option for financing. CareCredit® is a flexible, 0% interest payment program, specifically designed for healthcare expenses, that makes it easier for you to get the treatment or procedures you want and need.

### DOES LASER VISION CORRECTION SURGERY HURT?

The eyes are anesthetized for surgery with numbing eye drops. Postoperatively, there is a variable amount of discomfort, depending on the procedure. Most discomfort is mild and can be alleviated with eye drops and over-the-counter pain medications, as appropriate.

### HOW MANY VISITS ARE REQUIRED?

There will be an initial visit to obtain a corneal imaging test and to tour the location where your laser vision correction will be completed. In a separate appointment, you will then undergo your consultation with your eye surgeon at the Hillsboro Eye Clinic. In most cases, surgery will be done on both eyes on the same day. You will have a visit with your surgeon on the day after surgery, then at appropriate intervals.

### HOW MUCH TIME SHOULD I EXPECT TO TAKE OFF FROM WORK?

LASIK is usually associated with rapid recovery and most patients can return to work within one to two days, depending on their occupation. SMILE is associated with a slightly slower visual recovery and most patients return to work with two to three days. PRK is associated the slowest recovery, but most patients are able return to work within four to five days. Of course, there are variations in recovery time from patient to patient.

### WHEN WILL I BE ABLE TO RESUME DRIVING?

This tends to follow the same pattern as time off from work. Most patients undergoing LASIK can drive safely the following day. Those undergoing SMILE or PRK will likely need a few more days than LASIK patients to recover and begin driving again.

### WHEN WILL I BE ABLE TO USE MY ELECTRONIC DEVICES?

It will not harm your eyes or delay your recovery from surgery if you try to use your eyes immediately. However, most patients feel more comfortable closing their eyes for the first few hours after surgery. The following day, you should be able to use your electronics, however it is common to experience some blurred vision while you recover from surgery.

### WHEN WILL I BE ABLE TO EXERCISE?

It is recommended that you avoid water activities, contact sports, and heavy lifting for one week after surgery. You can resume mild exercise the day after surgery.

### WHEN AFTER THE PROCEDURE CAN I TRAVEL BY AIRPLANE?

If you undergo LASIK or SMILE, you will be able to travel by airplane immediately after your post-operative evaluation. If you undergo PRK, you must return on the fourth or fifth postoperative day, therefore, travel is not recommended until after one week has elapsed from the date of your surgery.



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### **WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF LASER VISION CORRECTION?**

The most common initial side effect while healing from laser vision correction is dryness and fluctuating vision. Some patients will notice glare and halos around lights while driving at night.

### **DO I NEED TO PUT DROPS INTO MY EYES AFTER LASER VISION CORRECTION? IF SO, FOR HOW LONG?**

Yes. You will be prescribed antibiotic and anti-inflammatory eye drops to be used after your surgery. Your doctor will prescribe the medications and will instruct you on their use. You may also be instructed to use over-the-counter artificial tears.

### **WILL I NEED TO WEAR GLASSES AFTER SURGERY?**

Not everyone achieves perfect vision after laser vision correction. Enhancements can be performed for those who do not achieve a satisfactory initial result, for a period of one year after surgery. Despite a surgeon's best effort, some patients will need glasses for their best possible vision postoperatively. Patients will need reading glasses after age 40.

### **IS IT TRUE THAT REFRACTIVE SURGERY ONLY LASTS A CERTAIN NUMBER OF YEARS?**

Laser vision correction produces a permanent change in the eyes. Later in life, natural changes in the curvature of the front of the eye, astigmatism, or the development of cataracts can cause vision to change.

### **DO YOU HAVE A 20/20 GUARANTEE?**

As with any surgery, we cannot guarantee a perfect outcome. However, the vast majority of patients who undergo laser vision correction reach 20/20 vision or better.