

## **LASIK Laser Eye Surgery**

LASIK is eye surgery done with a laser to help you see better. The laser makes tiny cuts that change the shape of the clear cover over the eye, the cornea. If done right, it can reduce a person's need for glasses or contact lenses.

Most patients are very pleased with the results. But there are risks, as with all surgery.

### **Is LASIK right for me?**

#### **Things to think about...**

- Find the right doctor. (see below)
- Cost -- Most medical insurance will *not* pay for this surgery.
- LASIK won't work well if your sight changes often. Have you needed a change in your contact lenses or glasses in the past year? Vision changes are more likely if you are:
  - In your early 20s
  - Diabetic or have certain other diseases
  - Pregnant or breast-feeding
  - Taking medicines that cause vision changes, such as steroids
- Laser eye surgery is *not* a good choice for people who do contact sports. *Examples:* boxing, wrestling, martial arts
- Laser surgery is *not* approved for anyone under age 18.
- Some jobs do not allow workers to have certain kinds of eye surgery. Check with your boss to make sure.

### **Things Your Doctor Must Look for Before Surgery**

*Your doctor needs to find out if you have any of these conditions:*

- Past or current eye diseases, such as glaucoma and ocular hypertension.
- Eye injuries or other laser eye surgery.
- Large pupils, thin corneas, or dry eyes.

#### **Finding the Right Doctor is Very Important**

Ask these questions before choosing a doctor:

**Experience:** How many LASIK eye surgeries has this doctor done with the same laser?

**Equipment:** Does this doctor use an FDA-approved laser?

**Information:** Does this doctor take the time to answer all your questions? Do you feel at ease giving and getting information with this doctor?

# ***LASIK Laser Eye Surgery (cont.)***

## **If You Choose LASIK**

*Before surgery:*

- Your doctor should give you an informed consent form. Read and understand it. Get answers to all your questions.
- Have a detailed eye exam.
- Plan *not* to drive or work right after the surgery.

*After surgery:*

- Take at least two days off work to rest and get better.
- You will have some pain for a few days.
- You will *not* be able to see clearly for a few days. Final results could take months.

## **To Report a Problem**

The FDA controls the sale of the lasers used for LASIK. If you have a problem with LASIK eye surgery, first speak with your doctor. Then report the problem to FDA's MedWatch program at 1-800-332-1088. Or visit [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov) and click on "MedWatch: Medical Product Reporting/Safety Information."

## **To Learn More...**

Call the FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health at 1-888-463-6332.

Or visit

[www.fda.gov/cdrh/lasik](http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/lasik).