

Quick Summary of Epi-LASIK

Q: What is Epi-LASIK and how is it different from “regular” LASIK?

A: All these surgeries are called refractive surgeries. Refractive surgeries are procedures to reshape the cornea of the eye by removing some of the tissue of the cornea using a laser. The cornea is the front covering of the eye, like the “windshield” of the eye, and it plays a role in focusing light. Epi-LASIK requires removal of the “skin” of the cornea before the laser is applied, and then the “skin” grows back. “Regular” LASIK involves a flap cut into the front of the cornea. That flap is lifted at its hinge (like a car hood) to reveal tissue underneath where the reshaping of the cornea is done. The last step in LASIK is replacement of the flap, which stays in the eye forever.

Q: Why do we use Epi-LASIK rather than LASIK?

A: We do not think that LASIK is a bad procedure by any means. One of the things we like about Epi-LASIK is that it has fewer long-term complications than LASIK. That way, you are less likely to have issues in the future after we are done seeing you. We see you for your post-op period, which lasts several months to a year.



Q: What is the goal?

A: The goal is to achieve vision like that which you have with glasses/contacts without having to wear them. We will not be able to improve your best possible vision (i.e. you will not get “super vision” better than what you currently have with glasses/contacts).

Q: What about my reading glasses?

A: Epi-LASIK and LASIK are less ideal once you start needing reading glasses, because we can only help you see better at one distance. If you need reading glasses, neither Epi-LASIK nor regular LASIK will be able to give you good vision up close and far away

using both eyes. There is something called “monovision,” in which one eye is for up close and one eye is for far away, but obviously that is not ideal either.

Q: Am I a good candidate?

A: We will not be able to determine if you are a good candidate until we perform a full evaluation on you. A couple of things you can keep in mind: 1) if you have other eye diseases like macular degeneration or glaucoma, you are not a good candidate, and 2) if you expect “super vision” (see above) after your laser, you are probably not a good candidate.

Q: I’ve heard about haloes and glare after LASIK; what is that about?

A: Halos, starbursts, and glare are common and reported by 1/3 to 1/2 of patients. It is important to remember that many of the people who report these symptoms also had halos, starbursts, and glare while looking through their glasses and contacts before surgery. Again, this relates to the fact that we cannot give you “super vision.”

Visit the website below for more information or contact us today!

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