

WEST GEORGIA EYE CARE CENTER

Frequently Asked Questions about Laser Vision Correction

Laser vision correction can help to make your world clear, whether you are nearsighted or farsighted or have astigmatism. At West Georgia Eye Care Center our experienced and committed physicians and laser team want to ensure that you make an informed decision about your vision correction options. If we may help you with any questions or concerns we welcome you to contact one of our refractive surgery coordinators at (706) 323-3491, ext. 130.

WHAT IS LASER VISION CORRECTION?

Laser vision correction is a simple procedure that uses the VISX S4 IR Smooth Scan Active Trak laser to correct nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. During the treatment, the laser's cool beam of ultraviolet light reshapes a small amount of tissue, usually less than the thickness of a human hair. Short pulses of this cool beam laser light change the curvature of the cornea, allowing images to be more sharply focused on the retina. The cornea is the clear window on the front surface of the eye, much like the crystal or glass on a wrist watch.

WHAT IS NEARSIGHTEDNESS?

Nearsightedness occurs when the curve at the front portion of the eye, known as the cornea, is too steep resulting in blurred images at a distance. In a normal eye, the cornea and the lens of the eye focus light to form an image on the back surface of the eye known as the retina. With nearsightedness, the eye focuses or refracts too much light causing images of distant objects to form in front of the retina and appear blurry.

WHAT ARE FARSIGHTEDNESS & ASTIGMATISM?

Farsightedness occurs because the cornea is too flat resulting in blurred images at near. In farsightedness, the eye does not focus, or refracts too little light causing images of distant objects to form behind the retina.

Astigmatism is the result of an irregular curvature of the cornea. Light rays cannot be brought to a single focal point and so objects appear blurry and possibly broadened or elongated.

CAN I HAVE LASER VISION CORRECTION?

Just as glasses and contacts help you to see clearly, so can laser vision correction. There are some guidelines: You must be at least 18 years of age, with healthy eyes and stable vision. The professionals at West Georgia Eye Care Center can provide a private consultation at no charge to determine if you are likely a candidate for laser vision correction.

WHAT ARE THE REAL BENEFITS OF LASER VISION CORRECTION?

Laser vision correction is the modern alternative to glasses or contact lenses. The goal of laser vision correction is to reduce or eliminate your dependence on contact lenses and glasses.

IS LASER VISION CORRECTION SAFE?

Over 5 million laser vision correction procedures have been performed worldwide in the past 10 years. Data obtained during exhaustive clinical trials shows that most patients experience a significant improvement in uncorrected vision (vision without glasses or contact lenses) after laser vision correction.

WHAT IS CUSTOM LASER VISION CORRECTION?

Custom procedures utilize WaveScan technology which captures the unique imperfections in your vision that could not have been measured and corrected before. This gives the doctor truly individualized information about your visual needs.

DO I NEED AN EXAMINATION FIRST?

Prior to treatment, you will have a thorough eye examination to determine whether your eyes are healthy and suitable for laser vision correction. In addition, a detailed computer image is taken of your eye that will detail the curvature, shape and overall smoothness and regularity of the cornea.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT ON THE DAY OF MY LASER VISION CORRECTION PROCEDURE?

Once you become accustomed to the sound of the laser, anesthetic drops will be placed in your eye. In the laser room, you will be seated in a reclining chair, the physician will position your head under the laser, and a retainer will be placed between your eyelids to gently hold them open during the treatment. Access to the cornea will be performed. Once completed, you will be asked to focus on a blinking red light while the laser reshapes the cornea. The laser will treat your eye for less than one minute, and your total time in the laser center will be about 1 hour.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL I NEED TO GET LASER VISION CORRECTION?

At West Georgia Eye Care Center, we recommend that you plan to have laser vision correction when you can afford a few days to relax and enjoy the benefits of your new vision. We offer end of the week procedures on Thursdays and most patients return to work or regular activities the following Monday. Postoperative visits are required at one day and 1 to 2 weeks.

WHAT KIND OF VISION CAN I EXPECT WITH LASER VISION CORRECTION?

This depends largely on the amount of correction required. Most people require a low to moderate degree of laser vision correction that should result in vision similar to that with glasses or contact lenses... It is expected that most patients should be able to legally drive without correction within 1 week.

IS LASER VISION CORRECTION AFFORDABLE FOR ME?

Laser vision correction is an elective procedure, which is paid for by the patient. However, the affordability of laser vision correction has never been greater. First, consider the cost of replacing your eyeglass frames and lenses or the repetitive costs of disposable contact lenses. With laser vision correction you can receive the greatest value; clearer vision without glasses or contact lenses!

Various finance packages are available to you. Please contact one of our refractive surgery coordinators, Misty Ekstrom or Kelly Bryan at (706) 323-3491, ext.130 for more information.