



PRK FAQs

What is custom PRK?

Custom PRK utilizes the accuracy and safety of the excimer laser to reduce your need for glasses and contact lenses. PRK customizes your treatment to eliminate nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism.

Why would I have PRK instead of iLASIK?

PRK is safer for patients with thin, irregular or scarred corneas, or who have had previous LASIK more than two years prior. PRK may be indicated in patients who have occupations or hobbies that put them at risk for flap injuries.

How do I know if I am a candidate?

Call the Cataract & Lasik Center of Utah to schedule your free consultation! You will undergo preliminary testing to assess your eyes' focusing power, shape, and corneal thickness. Dr. Monroe or Dr. Beaty will meet with you to discuss the test results and assess if Custom PRK can help meet your vision needs.

If PRK is right for you, our Vision Advisor will schedule your return appointment for dilated examination to prepare for surgery. The free consultation will take approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour.

What should I expect at my preoperative exam?

At the preoperative exam, you will undergo thorough testing to prepare for PRK. If you are a contact lens wearer, you will need to discontinue contact lens wear:

At least 1 week for daily wear soft contact lenses

At least 2 weeks for soft toric contact lenses

At least 3 weeks for rigid gas perm contact lenses

Because you will be dilated for at least 6-8 hours (your pupils will be relaxed making it difficult to focus), you may want to bring a driver. Preoperative instructions and prescriptions will be given to you to prepare for surgery. Please bring your eye medications with you on the day of surgery. Your preoperative exam will take approximately 2 hours.

What should I expect on my day of surgery?

You will undergo any testing necessary to make final preparations for PRK. Your Vision Advisor will discuss your postoperative instructions and collect payment. Our clinical team will administer numbing drops, cleanse your eyelids, and offer you Valium to relax you (if you choose). Dr. Monroe will answer any questions and escort you to the surgery suite.

The procedure will last approximately 20 minutes. The outer surface of the cornea, the epithelium, is gently removed and the VISX laser alters the corneal surface according to your prescription. The surface is cooled with chilled saline to reduce discomfort and minimize swelling. Eye drops and a bandage contact lens are placed to facilitate healing. The procedure is repeated in the second eye. Dr. Monroe will examine you to be certain the contact lenses are perfect prior to your departure. Plan to be at our office 2-3 hours on surgery day.

What should I expect after surgery?

Immediately after the procedure, your vision will be blurry, as if your eyes are open underwater. Your eyes may feel scratchy and irritated for 6-8 hours. Relaxing with your eyes closed will help reduce any discomfort. You may use cool packs, ibuprofen, and prescription narcotic the first day. You will be given a dilute numbing drop to use every hour as needed on the day of surgery; however, since anesthetics may delay the surface healing, you must throw away the drop on the day after surgery. Your vision may worsen for the first 4-5 days as the surface heals. The bandage contact lens is usually removed 4-5 days after surgery. Expect your vision to continue to improve for the first month.

Congratulations on your new vision!