



LASIK ENHANCEMENTS FAQS

What percentage of patients need an enhancement?

With use of the iLASIK procedure at our facility (combining the iFS femtosecond laser and VISX S4 excimer laser), fewer than 5% of patients need enhancements.

If I need an enhancement, do you have to make another flap?

We do not create a new flap. Although our laser is very precise, creating a new flap in the setting of any flap (made with a blade or laser) runs the risk of creating an irregular surface for healing and poor quality vision.

Can you just lift my old flap?

If your surgery is within the last 2 years, we usually lift the flap. After 2 years, the laser-created flap has healed too securely to reposition which provides a great safety benefit. Although the flap made with a blade could be lifted, we (like most surgeons) do not lift the flap because of the dramatically increased risk of irregular healing and epithelial ingrowth.

If you can't lift the flap, what are my options?

Of course, you can see your eye physician about glasses or contact lenses. If our testing demonstrates that your overall eye health and corneal surfaces are stable, we can consider PRK to reduce your need for eye wear.

What can I expect after my enhancement?

If we lift your flap, the surgery will seem more effortless than your original LASIK since we do not use a suction ring; however, the first 2-4 hours after surgery will be more uncomfortable than your original procedure. Your vision should improve significantly over the first 2 weeks after surgery but usually fluctuates for the first month.

During PRK enhancement we remove the epithelium (smooth surface on top of the flap), creating an abrasion on the cornea before performing the laser treatment. We place a bandage contact lens to wear continuously for the first 4-5 days after surgery to aid healing and comfort. The procedure will be more comfortable than LASIK because no suction ring is applied; however, the first 6-8 hours after surgery may be significantly more uncomfortable. We prescribe oral narcotic, dilute numbing drops, and ice packs to enhance your comfort during this time. Unlike primary PRK in which the vision usually stabilizes in 1 month, PRK enhancements take 3-6 months to stabilize (at least 6 months if you had RK instead of LASIK).

Can I enhance both eyes at the same time if needed?

With a LASIK flap lift, we can perform surgery in both eyes on the same day. With PRK enhancements, we operate on one eye at a time because of the markedly delayed visual recovery.