



iLASIK FAQs

What is iLASIK?

iLASIK combines the accuracy of the excimer laser with the safety and precision of the femtosecond laser to reduce your need for glasses and contact lenses. iLASIK customizes your treatment to eliminate nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism.

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 iLASIK can help meet your vision needs.

If iLASIK 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 30 minutes to 1 hour.

What should I expect at my preoperative exam?

At the preoperative exam, you will undergo thorough testing to prepare for iLASIK. 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 or overnight contact lens wear

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 iLASIK. 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 iFS laser is used to create the flap by placing a suction ring on the surface of the eye. For 45-60 seconds you feel mild pressure and your vision goes dark. The flap is then lifted and the VISX laser alters the corneal surface according to your prescription. The flap is replaced and the procedure repeated in the second eye. You will be asked to relax in our reception area with your eyes closed for 30-45 minutes. Dr. Monroe will examine you to be certain the flaps 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 very blurry, as if your eyes are open underwater. The flap edges are very smooth, but your eyes may feel scratchy and irritated for 2-3 hours. Relaxing with your eyes closed will help reduce any discomfort. The vision will begin to clear after 6-8 hours. The next day you will have good functional vision, but may feel as if you are looking through cellophane. The drops take 2-3 days to resolve the normal postoperative swelling. Expect your vision to continue to improve for the first month.

Congratulations on your new vision!