



Surgery

The Day of Your Surgery

The LASIK procedure will be done during a brief outpatient visit. You will be given numbing eye drops and possibly a mild sedative. You will remain awake and should be quite comfortable during the procedure through the use of very effective anesthetic eye drops. You will be prevented from blinking during the procedure with a special eye lid holder placed between your eyelids. Next, a corneal flap will be made using the microkeratome. You will then be positioned so that the eye is aligned with the laser. You will be told to look at a fixating light overhead.

The laser does its reshaping in approximately a minute's time. The corneal flap will then be placed back into its original position. You will be given additional eye drops and a special eye shield will be placed on your operated eye(s).

Because it is possible to dislodge the corneal flap in the early postoperative period, it is important that you do not rub, push or squeeze your eye(s). You will be instructed to wear a clear shield to bed for a week. Also, when you are involved in activities where your eye(s) could be accidentally hit, you should wear protective eyewear.

After Surgery

After the surgery, you will need to have someone drive you home and you should not attempt to drive until your vision has cleared. You will have eye drops to use after the procedure. An antibiotic eye drop will need to be used to reduce the risk of infection. A steroid eye drop is used to reduce the microscopic swelling caused by the procedure. Lubricating eye drops are also used to replace the moisture the eye will need to assist in its healing.

Many patients describe the discomfort in their eye(s) as a sensation similar to having sand or an eyelash in the eye and can vary in intensity. Most people are comfortable within a couple of hours. The use of ibuprofen will usually relieve the discomfort. If you experience pain after 24 hours, you should call your physician.

What a patient sees immediately after LASIK varies from one person to another. Some patients see a dramatic improvement the day after surgery. For others, vision may be blurry for several days to several weeks, but should continue to improve with time. Also, if you have just one eye done at a time, you may experience an imbalance between your eyes. This may impair your ability to work and drive; and temporary glasses or contacts may be necessary to minimize the refractive error between the two eyes, if severe.

For more information about the Eye Institute, please call **603.663.2020** or e-mail eyeinstitute@cmc-nh.org.