

The LASIK Experience

At your preoperative consultation, information about your medical and eye history will be obtained and a thorough eye examination will be performed. There are some medical and ocular conditions that may preclude laser vision correction or may affect the predictability of the outcome. You will be given a great deal of information about the procedure including risks, benefits, and alternatives. Your visual goals and expectations will be discussed in great detail to be sure that they are appropriate for the likely outcome of the procedure. You will also be given the opportunity to ask any questions that you may have. Several measurements will be made during this examination including corneal topography (digital mapping of your cornea), corneal pachymetry (ultrasonic measurement of your corneal thickness), and measurement of your pupil size in dim illumination with an infrared pupillometer. Some of these measurements may be affected by recent use of contact lenses. For this reason, prior to obtaining these measurements it is necessary to discontinue the use of soft contact lenses for at least three days, toric soft contact lenses (for astigmatism) for two weeks, and hard or gas permeable contact lenses for three weeks.

On the day of your procedure you should arrive wearing comfortable clothes and no eye make-up. Colognes or other scented cosmetics should not be used as aromatic chemicals may affect the optics of the laser. You will be offered a mild oral sedative to help keep you relaxed during the brief procedure. You will be given antibiotic and anesthetic eye drops and brought into the laser room.

In the laser room you will be positioned under the laser and your eyelashes will be taped out of the way. Because your eyes have been anesthetized with drops you will not feel the need to blink, however, an eyelid holder will be used to keep you from inadvertently blinking. You may feel some pressure from the eyelid holder (lid speculum). A suction ring will be placed on your eye to maintain position and provide pressure within the eye for about thirty seconds to allow creation of the thin flap with the microkeratome. You may feel a minor pressure sensation and the room lights will briefly disappear. The flap is lifted back and you will be asked to look directly at a blinking red fixation light. The laser procedure is then performed. If your eye wanders from the fixation light the laser tracking system will automatically compensate. The laser part of the procedure usually takes thirty to ninety seconds and is completely painless. You will hear a clicking or tapping sound with each pulse of the laser and may notice a mild odor resulting from the laser process. The thin corneal flap is then placed back down and saline solution is gently irrigated in the interface between the flap and the remaining cornea to remove any debris and allow the flap to float back into proper position. The flap is allowed to dry for two minutes during which time the cornea's natural processes cause the flap to adhere to the underlying corneal stroma. The lid holder is then removed and the procedure is complete.

After your procedure, Central New York Eye Center, as a *full service* ophthalmology practice, is committed to providing all of your future eye care needs.