

Informed Consent to have LASIK Surgery

The following information is intended to help you make an informed decision about having LASIK surgery to treat your nearsightedness, farsightedness, and/or astigmatism. Take your time in reading the following information. You are encouraged to ask as many questions as you feel necessary to help in making your decision. Every surgery has risks as well as benefits, and each person must evaluate this risk/benefit ratio for themselves in light of the information that follows.

LASIK permanently changes the shape of the cornea; the front surface of the eye. The procedure involves the creation of a thin surface flap of tissue made by the Intralase laser. The Intralase laser represents the safest, most accurate method known to form a corneal flap. Topical anesthetic drops are used during the surgery to minimize sensation on the eye. Once a flap has been created, it is folded back and the excimer laser is used to reshape the surface. After reshaping, the flap is replaced and smoothed so that it bonds back into place without the need for stitches. The result of removing thin layers of corneal tissue causes the center of the cornea to flatten in the case of nearsightedness, steepen in the case of farsightedness, or become rounded in the case of astigmatism. Reshaping the cornea changes the focusing power of the eye. Although the goal of LASIK is to improve vision to the point of not being dependent upon glasses or contact lenses, **this result is not guaranteed**. It is very important to understand that LASIK does not correct presbyopia (natural aging of the eye that affects near vision). Presbyopia occurs around age 40 and requires reading glasses for close up work. Having LASIK beyond the age of 40 may require wearing reading glasses for clearer close vision.

Naturally occurring eye problems such as glaucoma, cataracts, retinal degeneration or detachment are not prevented or caused by having LASIK surgery. There is a remote chance you may develop keratoconus (steepening and thinning of the cornea) following LASIK surgery.

Avoid rubbing your eyes following surgery. Protective eyewear should be worn for all contact sports and racquet sports. All eye make up should be replaced.

POTENTIAL RISKS OF LASIK SURGERY

Loss of Vision

Loss of vision or loss of best corrected vision can be potentially caused by LASIK surgery. This can be due to infection. Complications could cause loss of an infected eye unless successfully treated with antibiotics, steroids, or other necessary treatments. Loss of clarity may also be caused by irregular healing of the cornea which can add astigmatism. Astigmatism is corrected by wearing glasses or contact lenses. It may not be possible to successfully wear contact lenses after LASIK.

Visual Side Effects

Other potential complications or conditions of LASIK surgery include: anisometropia (a difference in refractive error between the eyes), aniseikonia (a difference in image size between the eyes), double or hazy vision, fluctuating vision, glare and halos around lights, and sensitivity to light. Some of these conditions may affect your ability to drive and judge distances. Do not drive unless you are certain your vision is adequate. There is a possibility that some of the listed side effects may not go away.

Over Correction and Under Correction

Healing for each patient is variable. This means that LASIK is not a 100% accurate procedure. Some procedures result in the eye being under corrected or over uncorrected, which means there may be residual glasses prescription present. Rarely an enhancement, or “fine tuning” with further laser treatment may be needed.

Statement of Understanding

- I understand that lubrication drops may be necessary after surgery to help with dryness or irritation.
- I understand if I am over the age of 40, I will need to wear reading glasses after surgery unless I am considering monovision. If I am less than 40, I will eventually need reading correction.
- I understand that certain side effects such as glare and halos, sensitivity to light, fluctuations in vision, depth perception, different image sizes, and irregular healing can occur altering my vision permanently or temporarily following LASIK.
- I understand that LASIK will not prevent or cause naturally occurring eye problems such as glaucoma, cataracts, or retinal detachment.
- I understand the risk of infection and that blindness could occur as a result if not properly treated.
- I understand that not using the eye drops after surgery as directed can result in increased intraocular pressure or cataracts.
- I understand that my vision could be made worse as a result of LASIK surgery.
- I understand that I may have to wear corrective lenses in order to achieve the level of visual acuity that I need or desire to perform certain tasks. Overcorrection or undercorrection are possibilities as a result of surgery. I understand that my surgeon will do everything to prevent these situations from arising.

I have read and understand the information provided to me regarding LASIK surgery at Clariti Advanced Vision Correction. I wish to proceed with surgery knowing and understanding the possible complications and/or dissatisfactions related to my results. I also understand that there may be a need for additional/other procedures due to unforeseen circumstances during the surgery. I authorize Dr. Fornefeld to perform any additional treatment that may become necessary during my procedure.

Right Eye / Left Eye

Patient Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Witness Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Physician Signature: _____ **Date:** _____