

COMMONLY ASKED LASIK QUESTIONS

1. *What is LASIK?*

Because of its non-invasive nature and remarkable effectiveness, LASIK is the most popular refractive surgery procedure available today. It involves the use of a very sophisticated cool-beam laser, which gently sculpts and reshapes the cornea of the eye in order to re-direct light as it focuses on the retina in the back of the eye. Patients with visual problems, including nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia), and astigmatism have experienced significant improvement in their vision within hours of the procedure, allowing them to live life less dependent on glasses or contact lenses.

2. *Why should I choose Dr. Raffa and South University Vision Center?*

It is important to understand that there are two critical elements reflected in the term “refractive surgery”: refraction and surgery. Advertisements and the media have put great emphasis on the importance of a highly qualified surgeon and on the integrity of the laser equipment. These are both absolutely critical to the success of the procedure. However, your results can only be as good as the information that is programmed into the laser. Dr. Raffa uses advanced techniques to determine your most accurate refraction and to examine the health of your eye. He also accompanies each patient to surgery and will be at your side to ensure your greatest success. In addition, we have chosen to work with only the most experienced surgeons who share our philosophy of providing individualized patient care.

3. *How do I know if I am a candidate for LASIK ?*

Dr. Raffa will perform a free vision and eye health evaluation to determine if you are a candidate. In general, the ideal candidate is at least 21 years of age and has healthy corneas with a relatively stable prescription over the previous 12 months. Individuals with certain medical conditions or women who are pregnant or nursing will be carefully evaluated and monitored to ensure candidacy.

4. *Does refractive surgery hurt?*

A topical anesthetic drop is administered shortly before the procedure. Therefore, most patients report little to no pain associated with LASIK. Within the first 24 hours after surgery, some patients may experience a mild discomfort similar to that of an eyelash in the eye. It is very rare to experience significant or prolonged discomfort.

5. *When can I go back to work and resume other normal activities?*

Most LASIK patients have functional vision within 6-24 hours and visual results will fluctuate mildly for several weeks. Most patients can therefore return to work the following day. Light exercise can be resumed the day following surgery. Jogging or lifting heavy objects can be resumed after one week, while swimming can be resumed after two weeks.