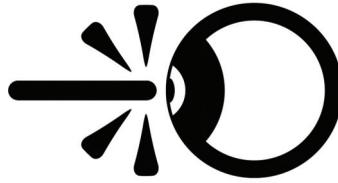


Follow-up Care After LASIK Surgery



Having the appropriate post-operative care after LASIK surgery is just as important as doing your homework before making the decision to have the procedure in the first place. Kirk R. Jeffreys, III, M.D., Ophthalmologist with EyeCare Professionals in Jackson, answers some commonly asked questions about the care you should receive after LASIK surgery.

Q. Once a patient is released to go home after LASIK surgery, what should they do to be sure they will get the best results from their surgery?

A. After the LASIK procedure, we suggest that patients return home and take a nap, or just rest until the lingering effects of their anesthesia have worn off. Patients may experience some mild post-operative irritation, which is usually resolved once they awake from their nap. Patients must avoid rubbing their eyes for at least one week, which is why we provide protective eye shields for our patients to wear while sleeping during this period. It is also critically important that they use the post-operative eye-drops as instructed and keep their scheduled post-op appointments.

Q. What are some of the medications that might be a part of follow-up care after the procedure?

A. We prescribe all of our LASIK patients the following three post-op medications: antibiotic drops to prevent infection (4 times/day for one week); steroid drops as an anti-inflammatory to promote healing (2-4 times/day for first week, then taper off over next three weeks); and artificial tears for lubrication (as needed).

Q. How soon can a patient resume his or her normal activities?

A. Most patients are able to resume normal activities the day after surgery, including driving and returning to work.

We do ask that they wear protective eyewear while participating in high impact activities, sports, etc., for the first several weeks after their procedure, and that they refrain from swimming and contact sports entirely for the first week. We ask that patients refrain from wearing eye make-up for the first week as well.

Q. How soon do patients experience visual improvement after surgery?

A. Immediately following the procedure, a patient's vision may be slightly blurred – similar to opening your eyes, while under water. As the day progresses, however, vision will rapidly improve as a build-up to the "wow" factor the patient experiences the day after the procedure.

Q. How often should a patient see his or her doctor for follow-up appointments?

A. We schedule follow-up appointments with LASIK patients one day, one week, one month, three months and one year following their procedure.

Q. Any other pertinent information you routinely share with your patients.

A. Most LASIK candidates do not realize they have options, when it comes to the LASIK procedures available to them today. IntraLase 'Blade-Free' LASIK is a 100% blade-free approach, in lieu of using a microkeratome blade. IntraLase is a very sophisticated and accurate technology available for creating the corneal flap – the thin flap of tissue that the surgeon creates to perform the LASIK procedure. It enables surgeons to tailor the flap for each individual patient's precise eye size, shape and depth, and has given many patients greater confidence and assurance in choosing laser vision correction. For more about IntraLase visit www.eyecare4ms.com.