VISION CORRECTION GUIDE

ConceptualEyes

WilmingtonEye

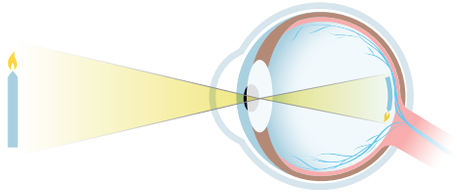
Achieve 20/20 without glasses or contacts. What a concept.

As the area's premier provider of state-of-the-art vision correction, Wilmington Eye can help you achieve clear, crisp vision without the assistance of corrective lenses. For more than 20 years, we have helped countless patients achieve 20/20 or better* following vision correction surgery, reducing and oftentimes eliminating the need for glasses or contact lenses. This Vision Correction Guide will explain the different procedures for vision correction, their benefits, and their possible risks. Not sure which procedure is right for you? Our board-certified ophthalmic surgeons will work with you to develop a custom vision correction plan best suited for your vision needs.

Why is my vision poor?

Clear vision depends on how light rays are focused, or “refracted,” through your eye. The shape of your cornea, the power of the lens and the length of your eyeball all determine how well the eye refracts light. When the eye cannot properly focus light through the eye, the results are what’s referred to as a refractive error.

In a normal eye, the light is focused sharply on the retina and a clear image is seen at all distances. In people with refractive disorders, objects will appear blurred.

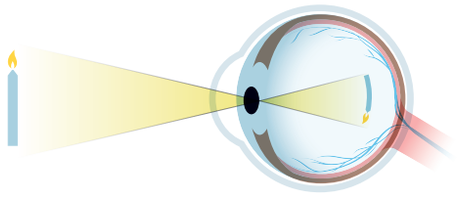


NORMAL

There Are 4 Common Types of Refractive Disorders

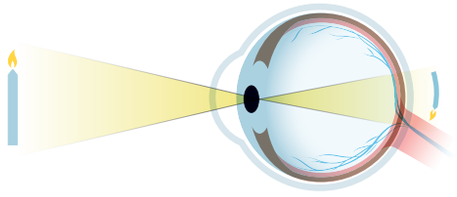
NEARSIGHTEDNESS *(MYOPIA)*

Occurs when the cornea is too steep or the eyeball is too long. Images of distant objects are blurred, but close objects are clear.



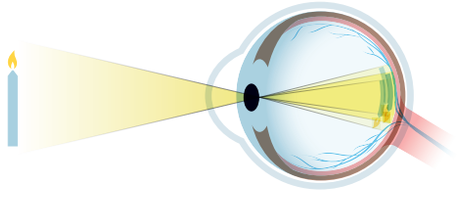
FARSIGHTEDNESS *(HYPEROPIA)*

Results when the cornea is too flat or the eyeball is too short, causing near objects to appear blurred. Some farsighted people cannot focus on distant or near objects.



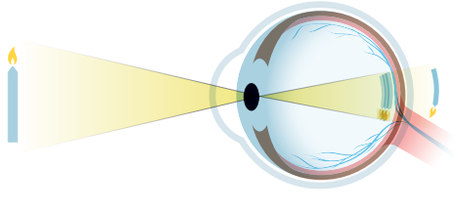
ASTIGMATISM

Occurs when the curvature of the cornea is uneven and is shaped more like a football than a round baseball. This irregularity creates multiple focal points in the eye and makes it difficult to focus on objects clearly.



PRESBYOPIA

Occurs in middle age when the lens inside the eye loses elasticity and is no longer able to focus on near objects. The majority of people over age 40 experience presbyopia and need reading glasses for small print.



What are my options for vision correction?

Incredible advancements in technology have drastically improved vision correction procedures, broadening the range of patients who are eligible and enhancing the results that patients can achieve. At Wilmington Eye, we use sophisticated testing equipment to determine the best vision correction procedure for your refractive needs and ensure optimal visual outcomes. Please keep in mind that not all patients are candidates for every procedure.

iLASIK

iLASIK is the newest form of vision correction. It is an all-laser, blade free vision correction procedure that uses proprietary technology to provide completely customized vision correction. We begin by developing a 3D map of your eye, identifying any optical imperfections that can affect the quality of your vision. This map serves as the individual road map for your procedure. The iLASIK procedure then uses two lasers, one to create a hinged flap in your cornea and the second laser to permanently change the shape of your eye.

iLASIK is the most common vision correction procedure and is generally suitable for patients with mild nearsightedness or astigmatism and who are between the ages of 21 and 45.

> ***Our iLASIK procedure costs include all post-operative checkups for one year and an as-needed enhancement during the first year following your procedure.***

Advantages of iLASIK

- Over 5 million procedures have been performed safely and effectively worldwide. In addition, all branches of the US military and NASA have approved the use of iLASIK for service members and astronauts.
- With laser precision, we are able to both quantitatively and qualitatively improve your overall vision.
- With the iLASIK procedure, 96% of people experience 20/20 or better.

Disadvantages of iLASIK

- Dry eye syndrome can occur following iLASIK. If you experience dry eye, you may not be a good candidate for iLASIK.
- Corneal scarring or ectasia may occur.
- Glares, halos and light sensitivity may result.

PRK (Photorefractive Keratectomy)

PRK is a vision correction procedure that is similar to iLASIK and actually predates iLASIK. It is commonly referred to as “LASIK without the flap”. Unlike iLASIK, which uses a laser to create a thin flap in your cornea, part of the protective layer of your cornea (epithelium) is removed during PRK. Once the cornea has been exposed, the same laser treatment in iLASIK (called the excimer laser) is used to permanently change the shape of your eye. With PRK, more than 90% of patients have experienced 20/40 or better following the procedure.

PRK is generally an ideal vision correction procedure best suited for patients who are not candidates for iLASIK due to dry eye conditions, thin corneas, certain corneal disease, or other similar eye conditions. Patients between the ages of 21 and 45 with mild nearsightedness or astigmatism will receive the best results from PRK.

> ***Our PRK procedure costs include all post-operative checkups for one year and an as-needed enhancement during the first year following your procedure.***

Advantages of PRK

- 90% of patients who have PRK experience 20/40 vision or better without glasses or contact lenses.
- With laser precision, we are able to correct your refractive error and improve the overall quality of your vision.

Disadvantages of PRK

- Corneal scarring may occur.
- Glares, halos and light sensitivity may result.
- Visual recovery can take longer than iLASIK.

The Vision ICL (Implantable Collamer® Lens)

An ICL is a thin, soft lens made of 100% biocompatible collagen copolymer that is implanted in the eye to correct moderate to severe nearsightedness. The lens is tucked behind the iris and provides a quality of vision that is oftentimes sharper, clearer, and more vivid than what you could achieve with corrective lenses. This state-of-the-art procedure has been used worldwide since 1995, and to date, more than 800,000 ICLs have been implanted. Once implanted in the eye, the Vision ICL also provides important UV protection.

This state-of-the-art procedure is best suited for patients with extremely high prescriptions or other eye findings that cannot be treated with iLASIK or PRK. The ideal candidate for the ICL is between the ages of 21 and 45.

> ***Our ICL procedure costs include all post-operative checkups for one year and an as-needed enhancement during the first year following your procedure.***

Advantages of ICL

- Unlike other refractive surgeries, ICL does not permanently alter the shape of your cornea.
- While the ICL can permanently correct your vision, the lens can be removed and/or replaced if necessary.
- The ICL procedure does not cause dry eye, making it an ideal vision correction procedure for anyone who suffers from dry eye.
- The material in the ICL contains a UV blocker that prevents harmful UVA and UVB rays from entering your eye, helping to prevent the development of UV-related eye disorders.

Disadvantages of ICL

- Glares, halos and light sensitivity may result.

For more information about each of these vision correction procedures, what to expect before, during, and after surgery, and additional benefits, please visit ***WilmingtonEye.com/vision-correction.***

Refractive Lens Exchange

If you are a candidate for refractive surgery but have been told you have presbyopia, a common age-related vision disorder, a Refractive Lens Exchange may be the best vision correction procedure for you. Unlike iLASIK & PRK, which alter the shape of your cornea, a Refractive Lens Exchange changes the focusing power of your eye with a lens implant. The Refractive Lens Exchange procedure consists of removing the eye's natural lens and replacing it with an artificial lens implant to provide clear focusing ability, much like a modern-day cataract procedure.

Patients with signs of early cataract development and patients over 55 years of age who are dependent on corrective lenses for distance vision and/or are dependent on reading glasses for up-close vision can benefit the most from a Refractive Lens Exchange.

Our procedure costs for a Refractive Lens Exchange include all post-operative checkups for one year and an as-needed enhancement.

Advantages of REFRACTIVE LENS EXCHANGE

- Refractive Lens Exchange is a vision correction procedure for those who are not candidates for other procedures because of their age.
- A refractive lens exchange eliminates the need for cataract surgery in the future.
- A refractive lens exchange can decrease your dependence on things like reading glasses for up-close activities and contact lenses for distance.

Disadvantages of REFRACTIVE LENS EXCHANGE

- A Refractive Lens Exchange is performed at an outpatient surgery center.
- Risks associated with a Refractive Lens Exchange are similar to those of cataract surgery and include infection, temporary increase in ocular pressure, retinal swelling, and retinal detachment.

Preparing for vision correction surgery.

Once your surgeon has determined the best vision correction procedure for your exact needs, it's time to prepare for surgery day. Please keep in mind that your pre- and post-operative instructions may differ depending on your individual vision needs and the specific procedure. Following all pre- and post-operative instructions provided by your surgeon will be extremely important in ensuring optimal visual outcomes.

Prior To Your Vision Correction Surgery

If you wear contact lenses, you will be required to switch to glasses full-time one week prior to your surgery day. This is extremely important as contact lenses distort the natural shape of your eye and may lead to less-than-optimal visual results.

Another very important part of your preoperative care is to continue any routine care such as prescription eye drops for dry eye. Your surgeon will discuss any additional preoperative care prior to your procedure.

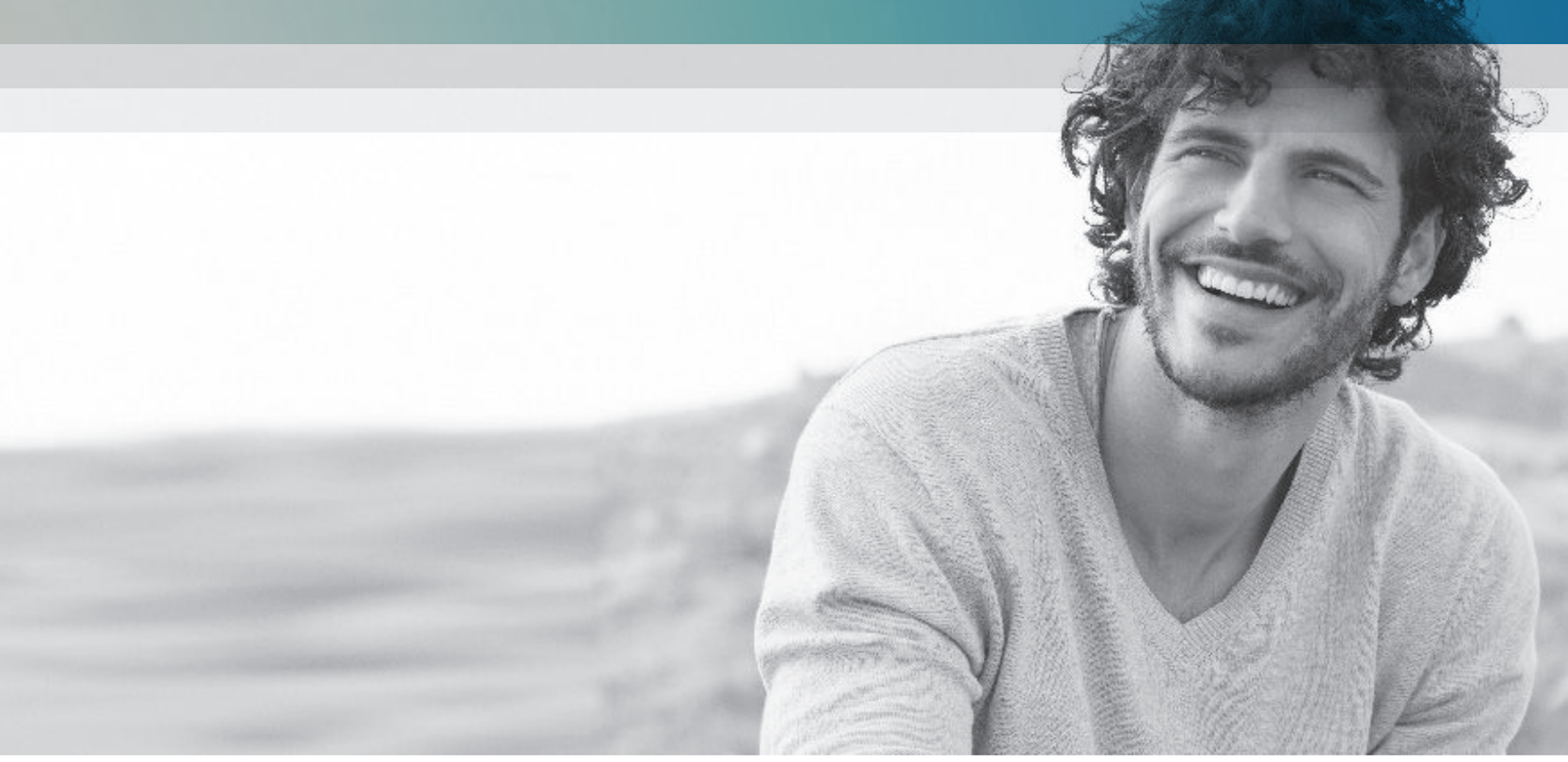
The morning of your procedure, please refrain from the use of lotion, sunscreen, or makeup. While most procedures are completed in 20 minutes or less, please plan on being at the facility for several hours. Driving is not permitted following your procedure so transportation to and from our facility must be arranged.

> ***Regardless of the type of vision correction procedure, you will need a loved one to drive you to and from your procedure.***

After Your Vision Correction Surgery

Following your procedure, you will be required to remain at home and rest for approximately 4 hours. Immediately following vision correction, many patients report blurry vision and light sensitivity. This is perfectly normal. Your first follow up appointment is typically within 24 hours following your procedure.

In most cases, visual stability can take weeks, and in some cases months. While many iLASIK patients report having clearer vision in days, it's important to remember that recovery varies from person to person. Most patients can resume all normal activities one week following surgery.



The Price of Vision Correction

When evaluating the price of vision correction, it's important to remember the lifetime costs associated with wearing glasses or contacts. Unlike glasses or contacts, the price of LASIK is a one-time fee!

Our fully comprehensive fees for vision correction include a personalized surgical plan that is customized to your exact needs, goals and lifestyle, all post-operative care for an entire year following your procedure, and an as-needed enhancement within the first year at no additional cost. We also partner with CareCredit to offer simple, affordable financing options for up to 18 months.

iLASIK

$ 4,500

ICL

$ 6,300 - $7,500

PRK

$ 4,500

Refractive Lens Exchange

$ 13,000

> To learn more about our financing options through CareCredit, please visit ***WilmingtonEye.com/vision-correction*** or talk to our LASIK specialist.

Meet Our Surgeons

KATHLEEN C. LEONE, MD, FACS

Dr. Kathleen Leone is a board-certified ophthalmic surgeon specializing in blade-free LASIK surgery, PRK, refractive lens exchange, and Implantable Collamer Lens. Practicing in Wilmington since 1998, Dr. Leone is an experienced surgeon who performs procedures to correct a vast array of ophthalmic conditions. A Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy, Dr. Leone served eight years of active duty before joining the Wilmington medical community.

To learn more about Dr. Leone and to read her full bio, visit ***WilmingtonEye.com/Kathleen-Leone***.

CHRISTOPHER D. COVINGTON, DO

Dr. Christopher Covington is a board-certified ophthalmic surgeon specializing in blade-free LASIK surgery, PRK, refractive lens exchange, and comprehensive ophthalmology. Dr. Covington is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Osteopathic College of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, and American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons.

To learn more about Dr. Covington and to read his full bio, visit ***WilmingtonEye.com/Chris-Covington***.

MATEJ POLOMSKY, MD

Dr. Matej Polomsky is a board-certified ophthalmic surgeon specializing in advanced blade-free LASIK surgery, PRK, refractive lens exchange, and comprehensive ophthalmology. Dr. Polomsky is experienced with all types of conditions of the eye and can care for an array of ophthalmic conditions. Dr. Polomsky is currently a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery.

To learn more about Dr. Polomsky and to read his full bio, visit ***WilmingtonEye.com/Matej-Polomsky***.

TRAVIS C. JENKINS, MD

Dr. Travis Jenkins is a fellowship-trained cornea and external disease specialist. He performs blade-free LASIK surgery, PRK, and refractive lens exchange. Dr. Jenkins is currently a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, the Cornea Society and the Operation Restore Vision Team.

To learn more about Dr. Jenkins and to read his full bio, ***WilmingtonEye.com/Travis-Jenkins***.

SAMANTHA WATSON, MD

Dr. Watson offers comprehensive ophthalmology services, including state-of-the-art cataract surgery; femtosecond laser-assisted cataract surgery; premium intraocular lens implantation for correction of astigmatism and presbyopia; diagnosis and management of glaucoma, dry eye disease, diabetic eye disease and age-related macular degeneration; and plastic surgery of the eyelids.

To learn more about Dr. Watson and to read her full bio, visit ***WilmingtonEye.com/Samantha-Watson***.

Notes

Our team of dedicated surgeons and medical experts are here to create a comfortable and caring environment as you begin to explore your options for vision correction. It's important to take notes and ask questions to ensure that your entire experience is fully explained and all expectations and concerns are addressed.

Notes, cont'd

To learn more about vision correction procedures, visit WilmingtonEye.com/vision-correction or talk to our team of experts.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does insurance cover vision correction procedures?

Many vision correction procedures are elective, which means most insurances will not cover the cost. However, we work with CareCredit to offer affordable, interest-free financing options. In addition, we offer a reduced price for first responders, teachers and active-duty military personnel.

How long does a vision correction procedure take?

Most vision correction procedures are completed in 20 minutes or less; however, you should make preparations to be at your surgery facility for approximately 1-2 hours. Regardless of the type of vision correction procedure, you will need a loved one to drive you to and from your procedure.

Does having a vision correction procedure hurt?

In most cases, eye drops are used to numb your eyes and suppress your natural urge to blink. Most patients report feeling no pain at all, only a slight pressure sensation. After a vision correction procedure, your eyes may feel scratchy or watery, but these symptoms are temporary. Please ask your surgeon for more information about your specific procedure and the associated discomfort.

How soon will I be able to see?

This varies greatly from procedure to procedure. Most patients will notice an improvement immediately following their vision correction procedure. However, your eyes will need time to heal and your vision time to stabilize. For many patients, this can take several weeks and in some cases, months.

We encourage you to research all of your surgical options. While consulting with other providers, consider asking the following questions to fully understand the difference in technologies and the methods of performing vision correction procedures.

- *What do you charge for the consultation?*
- *What diagnostic testing will be performed prior to determine the right vision correction procedure for my eyes?*
- *What technology do you use to create a surgery plan and for the actual procedure?*
- *How long have you been using the technology you've recommended for me?*
- *Do you offer iLASIK technology? If so, how many iLASIK procedures have you performed?*
- *Do you use roll-on/off lasers for your LASIK procedures?*
- *What does the procedure fee include (number of post-ops, enhancements, etc.)?*
- *Are there additional charges for higher prescriptions, astigmatism, etc.?*