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## The Risks Of Lasik Surgery

By Robert Moongrave

The 21st century is the golden age for surgical procedures, among them an increasingly popular

method of corrective eye surgery known as LASIK. LASIK is an acronym for the surgery, which stands for Laser Assisted In Situ Keratomileusis. This procedure has become increasingly reliable, with unresolved complications reported in only 3 to 6 percent of patients. The risk of complications is still there, however, and can take several different forms.

The complications of LASIK surgery can include the following: Dry eyes, over or under correction, visual acuity fluctuation, halos or starbursts around light sources at night, light sensitivity, double vision, wrinkles in the flap, striation, decentered ablation, debris or growth under the flap, induced astigmatism. These complications are classified according to whether they arise in the preoperative procedures, the procedure itself, or after the operation either early on or later.

Each of the complications is unique unto itself, and it is important to remember that LASIK surgery is irreversible should any of the complications occur. Many of the complications such as halos and ghosts are not tested by standard eye tests, and need to be accounted for separately.

Over and under correction are the result of the surgeon incorrectly estimating the concentration that needs to be applied during the surgery. Many risks of LASIK surgery can also be increased by phenomena that may not have occurred to the patient, such as racial origin and environmental occurrences.

Improperly formed flaps can lead to an irregular surface and vision defects as the flap fails to properly adhere to the surface of the eye. This condition can be corrected with further surgery, although the costs will usually continue to accrue and sometimes a decrease in visual acuity. A flap that is too thick can also weaken the eye's surface and result in bulging. Some patients have a condition that already makes them conducive to bulging, and thus are rejected as candidates for LASIK surgery.

As LASIK surgery become more and more commonplace, the risks and recovery times are becoming less common and pronounced. As with any surgery, and especially those with cosmetic implications, LASIK is becoming increasingly popular. As people sense the money to be made in practicing the

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procedure, the risk of employing a surgeon who is not versed or experienced enough in the procedure also increases. Make sure to discuss LASIK surgery with your ophthalmologist before undergoing the procedure, to determine if you are eligible and also to suggest a list of surgeons who practice the procedure in your area. Make sure to contact other patients that have undergone the surgery by the particular surgeon you are thinking about employing in order to gain some first hand knowledge about her practice and success rate. Also look into where the surgeon was educated and if she served under another surgeon before going out to do the procedure on her own. There is no such thing as being too careful when it comes to surgical procedures, and treatment for your eyes are no exception.

Robert Moongrave maintains a free website offering advice and tips on Lasik surgery. His site can be found at:

<http://lasikproject.com>

### **What are Risks of Lasik Eye Surgery?**

**By Hanif Khaki**

#### LASIK Eye Surgery Risks

Lasik Surgery poses risks inherent in all surgery. Since surgery is an invasive procedure in your body, Lasik eye surgery is no exception. Studies in the 1990s confirm that up to 5% of LASIK surgery patients experienced some problems after surgery.

Fortunately, today's LASIK surgeons are able to keep the percentage of people suffering from LASIK eye surgery risks down to less than 1%. This may be due to more thorough screening of the candidates. LASIK eye surgery risks rarely include the possibility of permanent or significant vision loss or the chance that your eyesight could be worse than it was before the surgery.

LASIK eye surgery risks usually pertain to LASIK flaps. These flaps refer to the cutting and lifting of flaps when the cornea is cut to enable the actual eye to be re-shaped by the laser. The flap is then put back into place, forming a "natural bandage." In traditional LASIK procedures, these flaps were cut by a bladed instrument called a microkeratome. Today, flaps are usually cut with a laser, a technology known as IntraLase. As a result of this technology, LASIK eye surgery risks are reduced because of increased accuracy and fewer flap complications. However, IntraLase is a considerably more expensive option. Potential candidates may have the option of having their cornea cut by laser or by blade. Also, candidates are given the choice of traditional LASIK, which addresses vision anomalies such as astigmatism or myopia, or custom LASIK, which deals with more obscure irregularities in the eye.

LASIK eye surgery risks are often related to whether the flaps are cut correctly or not. If the flaps are cut incorrectly, there is the possibility that the cornea may not stick to the surface of the eye. If the flap is cut too thin or thick, it may wrinkle after being placed back on the eye. This will result in an irregular eye shape and can distort vision. This condition is often referred to as irregular astigmatism.

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Irregular astigmatism that is due to a less than smooth surface of the cornea can also become a LASIK eye surgery risk if the laser correction is not centered correctly on the eye. This LASIK eye surgery risk may lead to conditions commonly known as double vision or ghost images. In this case, re-treatment or enhancement of the eye may be necessary. Additionally, swelling or irregular healing of the cornea can cause ghost images and double vision. Most often, when the healing process takes its course, these problems will usually correct themselves.

Other possible LASIK eye surgery risks may include night vision problems such as the appearance of halos, and possible glare surrounding brightly lit objects. Some patients also experience infection, inflammation of the eye, dry eye, redness, visual blurriness and eye irritation.

Hanif Khaki is the sought after author of numerous health related articles and the founder of the popular Lasik Resource site

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