Take a closer look at LASIK
How LASIK works

LASIK, short for Laser-Assisted In-Situ Keratomileusis, is a refractive eye surgery, one of several types of vision correction surgeries performed on the eye itself. LASIK uses an excimer laser, which applies ultraviolet light to reshape the cornea.

Vision can become blurry when the cornea (the clear front part of the eye) is shaped abnormally. Because of this abnormality, light doesn’t bend, or refract, properly as it reaches the retina in back of the eye. We call these refractive errors. They can include:

- Nearsightedness (myopia) where distant images seem blurry
- Farsightedness (hyperopia) where near images seem blurry
- Astigmatism where close-up or distant images seem blurry

LASIK can correct these vision problems. In some cases, laser surgery for refractive errors may reduce or eliminate the need for eyeglasses or contact lenses.

Hassle-free vision

If you’re doing research about LASIK, you’ll read a lot about the benefits of the surgery itself: Little to no pain, immediate vision correction, quick recovery times.

The true benefits of LASIK are the changes it makes in your life. No more reaching for glasses in the morning to read the clock, or bottles of contact lens solution. No more frames sliding off your nose on a hot day, or losing a contact in the middle of your workout. No more choosing between glasses or contacts on your vision benefits when you really need both. LASIK means hassle-free vision, all the time. It’s just you and your own eyes.

Here, we’ll share some information about our experts and the tools we use, how we make LASIK an affordable option for your vision correction and some of the most common questions people have about LASIK. When you’re ready to take the next step, so are we.

CLICK HERE
To request a free consultation with a LASIK specialist
Faster. Safer. More precise.
Ohio State has the most advanced LASIK technology available in central Ohio.

When it comes to your vision, there is no room for compromise – you want the confidence that your surgeon is using equipment and procedures that are state-of-the-art. That’s why people trust their vision to Ohio State.

During your evaluation, our doctors will discuss with you all the benefits of our LASIK process, but the most exciting one is called topography-guided laser vision correction. Just like a topographic map captures changes in land elevation, Ohio State’s LASIK system maps the surface of your eye, giving our doctors the ability to develop a unique vision correction plan for you. Rather than simply treating your vision based on your eyeglass prescription, we can pinpoint and correct the smallest imperfections of your cornea and its curvature. The result is a personalized focusing surface for each patient, and each eye. Many patients experience better quality vision following a LASIK procedure than they ever had with contacts and glasses.

There’s also no moving around from laser to laser for patients once the procedure begins. Our patient table shifts from the laser that prepares your eye for correction to the one that corrects your vision. This connectivity makes the entire procedure faster and more precise, making you more comfortable.

Our new LASIK system represents a significant advancement in laser vision correction. LASIK has never been faster, safer or more accurate. If you’ve been waiting for the right time to have LASIK, now is the time. And Ohio State is the place.
The laser is the tool. The doctor is the difference. The place is Ohio State.

LASIK technology continues to make important advancements, but there’s no substitute for experience. Ohio State’s David Castellano, MD, has been performing LASIK surgeries for 20 years. Together with colleagues Amit Tandon, MD, and Rebecca Kuennen, MD, Ohio State brings nearly 40 years of combined LASIK experience to each procedure.

“We provide very personalized care. You’ll always see me directly when you make an appointment at my office. Most of my patients have my cell phone number and can reach me any time. If a patient has a problem, I’ll always make time to see them. Working at Ohio State offers many opportunities to stay on the leading edge of eye care. I just keep learning.” – Dr. Castellano

At Ohio State’s Havener Eye Institute, our doctors help you make a well-informed decision about your vision, answer your questions and address your concerns. No gimmicks, no high-pressure sales. Just the information you need to do what’s best for you.

The LASIK process, step by step

Before Your Surgery

At your LASIK consultation, your doctor will perform a series of sophisticated and painless tests to determine the unique shape of your eye. This allows us to personalize your procedure with remarkable precision.

LASIK surgery is an outpatient procedure, which means you will not spend the night in the hospital. The actual procedure takes less than 15 minutes, but plan for the appointment to last about an hour. Your surgeon will provide specific instructions, but here are some steps that are usually recommended:

- Arrange for someone to drive you to and from surgery
- Do not wear contacts for 7-10 days before the surgery
- Do not wear any eye makeup, perfume, cologne or aftershave the day of the surgery
During Your Surgery

On the day of your surgery, we may give you low-dose anti-anxiety oral medication to help you relax. You’ll receive medicated eye drops that will help make you comfortable during the treatment.

The entire procedure takes less than 15 minutes and involves minimal discomfort.

The LASIK process involves two lasers: the first prepares your eyes for the surgery by creating a small flap in your cornea (the thin outer layer of the eye). Your doctor will use an eyelid retainer to gently hold your eye open so you don’t blink.

The second laser – a cool, ultraviolet laser that you can neither see nor feel – will reshape your cornea.

After the reshaping of the cornea is complete, the surgeon places your corneal flap back into position. During the procedure, it is common to experience hazy vision and flashing lights.

After Your Surgery

You will most likely notice an immediate improvement in your vision, even though it may be hazy. Expect three to four hours of eye-watering, scratchiness and sensitivity to light. We suggest you sleep during this time if you can.

The next morning, you will return for a postoperative check. Most patients are able to drive themselves to this appointment and notice significantly improved vision. You may experience some glare, halos or dry eyes, but they will improve dramatically as your eyes heal.

Surgeons recommend not swimming or using a hot tub for three weeks after surgery, and not wearing any eye makeup for at least two days.

Your eyes will continue to heal over the next 8-12 weeks. During this time, patients may experience some dryness, blurred vision, halos and glare.

Potential Side Effects

Side effects may include:

- Undercorrection
- Overcorrection
- Dry eye
- Glare, halos and ghosting images
- Other rare risks, such as infection, inflammation and corneal ectasia (thinning)

Speak to your refractive surgeon if you have any questions or concerns.
LASIK Q&A

Am I a good candidate for LASIK?
It’s most important that your eyes are healthy. That means no infections, glaucoma, cataracts, chronic dry eye or other conditions that might affect the way your eyes heal. LASIK patients must be at least 18 years old. Your medical history should also show stable vision of a year or more. Some autoimmune diseases may rule out LASIK as a vision correction option for you.

I’ve read that pregnant or nursing women do not make good candidates for LASIK. Why?
If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, you undergo hormonal changes that can affect the structure of your eyes. Doctors generally recommend that if you are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant, or have breastfed within the last three months, to postpone LASIK until consulting with your physician.

Am I too old for LASIK?
People with healthy eyes and stable vision can get LASIK at any age. Most people’s vision begins to stabilize in their mid-20s until their 40s, which makes that age range a prime time to get LASIK. In your 40s, your eyes can begin to change again, and you may need reading glasses to correct a condition known as presbyopia, which LASIK does not correct. At age 60, your risk of developing cataracts increases, which may also rule you out for LASIK.

Will I have perfect vision after LASIK?
Ohio State’s Dr. Castellano says that more than 94 percent of Ohio State LASIK patients enjoy 20/20 vision or better after the procedure. Your doctor can explain the likelihood of LASIK correcting the specific circumstances of your vision, but most people no longer need to use glasses or contacts.

Is LASIK surgery painful?
Most people say the procedure is virtually painless. Anesthetic drops are applied to your eyes before the procedure begins, and any postsurgical discomfort can usually be treated with over-the-counter pain relievers. That discomfort is usually limited to mild dryness or scratchiness for a few hours.

Can I have surgery on both eyes in one visit?
Yes, most surgeries now involve both eyes in one visit.

When can I go back to work and to my regular activities?
Most people who have LASIK can return to work the next day, but you’ll first have a postsurgical follow-up that morning. Your doctor may suggest only light workouts for a few days to keep sweat out of your eyes. It may be three to four weeks or more before you can safely return to swimming.

How long does LASIK last?
It’s possible that you may never need corrective lenses again, but as you age, you may require reading glasses, which LASIK does not correct.

CLICK HERE
To request a free consultation with a LASIK specialist
LASIK financing

At Ohio State, we make LASIK affordable. With free consultations, all-inclusive pricing and several financing options, LASIK is no longer a luxury. It’s a realistic, affordable, safe, hassle-free solution for a lifetime of clear vision.

Many LASIK providers advertise “low-cost” procedures. What’s the catch?

There are two common LASIK pricing models – tiered pricing and physician-based practice pricing. At discount providers, tiered pricing is the norm. That simply means that services are provided à la carte. Tiered pricing providers often have multiple lasers and charge more based on your prescription and the recommended laser. Providers might also have different prices depending on the method used to create your corneal flap. Follow-up care may also be priced separately.

Tiered pricing allows providers to advertise an extremely low cost, so it’s important that you look through all the fine print. The vast majority of patients don’t qualify for the advertised rates.

With physician-based practice pricing like Ohio State’s, patients are normally quoted a single, all-inclusive rate. No hidden fees, no surprises.

What are your options when financing your LASIK procedure?

At Ohio State, we offer several financing options to match your budget. We provide patient financing and no-interest payment options with Care Credit. With Care Credit, you have the option to make monthly payments with interest over 60 months, or interest-free payments over an 18-month period. Patients can visit carecredit.com or call 1-800-365-8295 to be pre-approved.

Typically, patients receive a response immediately. There is no down payment required and no pre-payment penalty. Patients usually receive the first monthly statement three weeks following their treatment.

You can also take advantage of your Healthcare Savings Account (HSA) or a Flexible Spending Account (FSA), both easy ways to reduce the costs of LASIK surgery.

Most FSAs allow you to use your selected amount for the year as soon as your benefits are effective (usually Jan. 1). HSAs are similar, but the remaining money can roll over to the next year, as these accounts don’t expire.

Our LASIK providers will discuss the benefits of all your financing options during your consultation.

Does insurance cover LASIK procedures?

LASIK is considered an “elective” procedure, so most insurance providers view LASIK as not medically necessary. In some cases, companies may offer enhanced insurance benefits to their employees that include procedures like LASIK, so it’s always a good idea to check your benefits to see what’s offered.

Vision plans often have a small discount for LASIK through a contracted provider, although there are stipulations with this arrangement. At Ohio State, our rate is comparable to the discounted rate on these vision plans.
How does LASIK compare cost-wise to a lifetime of contact lenses or eyeglasses?

The cost of your LASIK procedure can vary based on the specifics of your procedure, but a cost of around $2,000 per eye is average. Today, a year of contacts can cost about $250, even more if you have special lenses for conditions like astigmatism. Add in the contact lens solution your optometrist recommends and the annual costs approach $400.

According to vision insurance provider VSP, the average price for eyeglasses is $196. Add in the designer frames you prefer and features like polycarbonate lenses, scratch-resistant coatings and anti-glare and you could be paying much more.

Also, many people like to have both contacts and eyeglasses, but insurance often only covers one type of lens each year, which means going into your pocket for the other.

Under these circumstances, it’s easy to see how LASIK could begin to pay for itself in about 10 years.

Even though costs can balance out in about 10 years, hassle-free vision begins the moment your procedure is complete. No more discovering you’re out of lens solution, or tightening the tiny screws on your glasses for the millionth time. No more blinking sessions to adjust your contact lenses or rummaging around the house for your old frames because your current ones are broken. It’s just you and your own eyes.
Schedule your appointment

We hope this guide has helped you understand more about the LASIK procedure, and the advantages of choosing Ohio State for your LASIK surgery.

At Ohio State’s Havener Eye Institute, we are more than your LASIK provider. We are partners in your vision health, and we will help you make the best decision for a lifetime of healthy sight.

The next step is to schedule your free LASIK consultation. We’ll find a time that fits your schedule and go over everything you’ve read here and more. Hassle-free vision is waiting. We look forward to seeing you.

CLICK HERE
To request a free consultation with a LASIK specialist