

LASEK CONSENT FORM

Background information

No mechanical flap is fashioned with LASEK. Instead, a flap of epithelium (the very thin layer of cells that covers the surface of the cornea) is gently lifted by the surgeon and rolled to one side to facilitate laser treatment. The level of laser treatment is now at 50 microns beneath the surface as opposed to 160 microns beneath the surface that is usually the case with LASIK.

1. The procedure itself is very similar except that with a LASEK there is no pressure feeling during the procedure. It also lasts for approximately 10 minutes per eye.
2. A Bandage Contact Lens is routinely placed on the eye for 4 or 5 days following the procedure. This implies that you will have the contact lens in permanently for these 4 or 5 days, including sleeping with the lens in at night.
3. There is some discomfort for the first day after surgery and this improves quite steadily to the point that on the 2nd post-operative day, the eye is already quite comfortable
4. It takes longer before the vision is fully recovered. With LASIK, the vision is normally very good by the very next day. With LASEK, the vision takes longer to recover. Once the contact lens is removed on the 5th day, the vision is normally around 80% of what it is going to be eventually. The final visual acuity is achieved at approximately 1 month after the procedure although the quality of vision continues to improve for up to 6 months afterwards.
5. There is usually a delay of 4 weeks or longer between the two eyes. With LASIK, the two eyes are very often treated on the same day. With LASEK, the two eyes are treated separately due to the fact that the visual recovery is slower. The typical delay is 6 to 8 weeks, but in some it has been as short as 3 weeks and in others longer than 2 months. We proceed to treat the 2nd eye as soon as both you and the ophthalmologist are happy that the first eye has healed well and has a satisfactory result.

Signed:

Reading glasses:

If both eyes are being corrected to zero, then reading glasses will be required for all near work (less than 40cm away) if you are older than 42 to 45 years of age. If you are younger than this, reading glasses will not be required but will become necessary when you approach the age of 42 years.

Signed:

Enhancement:

You may need an enhancement or adjustment to the initial procedure. The chances are higher if the initial refractive error is high to start with. This would normally be done around 6 months after the first procedure.

Signed:

Complications:

I understand that there are very few complications with LASEK.

The epithelial flap may be unsuitable to place back into position and it will then be discarded (This is now a PRK procedure)

Infection may occur that may result in a delay in the healing process or a loss of the quality of vision. This has not occurred in the Beacon Eye clinic to date.

Haze can occur that would also delay the visual recovery. It is very uncommon not to clear. It is also uncommon for haze to have a lasting clinically significant effect.

Signed:

LASEK CONSENT

I, _____, hereby give consent to / Mr. A.B. Cummings / Mr. R. Corkin / Mr. W. H. Lee to perform LASEK on my Right / Left eye.

I understand that the recovery period is longer than with LASIK and that I will be wearing a bandage contact lens for the next 4 to 5 days.

I understand that the vision is going to take longer to recover and that the vision will still be quite blurred when the contact lens is removed.

I understand that I may need an adjustment or enhancement. This decision will be made by myself in consultation with the ophthalmologist or optometrist and will usually be considered at the 6-month post-operative interval.

I undertake to use my post-operative medication and to attend the post-operative visits at the clinic on Day 1, Day 4 or 5, Month 1, Month 3 and Month 6.

I understand and accept the risks inherent to refractive surgery and LASEK in particular.

Signed:

Date:

Witness:

Date: