

What To Expect When You Have Laser Vision Correction Surgery

Your Surgery

Laser vision correction surgery is done to correct vision problems.

Before Your Surgery

- During your pre-surgery consultation, your eye surgeon will explain what results you should expect after surgery. In general, most people see improvements in their vision in the first few days.

Your recovery after surgery will depend on the type of surgery you have and your current prescription. People with a higher prescription may recover more slowly.

- If you wear contact lenses, you will need to stop wearing them before surgery. Some contact lenses can change the shape of your cornea. Not wearing them will allow your eyes to return to their natural shape. This may take some time to happen. Your eye surgeon will tell you when you need to stop wearing your contact lenses.
- You will need to arrange to have someone drive you home. You will not be able to drive after the surgery. (You may use public transportation only if a responsible adult is with you.)
- You should plan on being at the hospital for 2 to 3 hours.
- The night before your surgery, try to get as much rest as possible. It is normal to feel excited and nervous before your surgery.

The Day of Your Surgery

- If you are not feeling well the day of your surgery (sore throat, cold, fever, dental problem, urinating problem, diarrhea), please call your eye surgeon's office. Your surgery may need to be rescheduled.
- You may eat a light meal before your surgery. You may eat: toast with jelly, bagel with cream cheese, an egg, yogurt with fruit, or cereal with milk. Choose 1 or 2 items from this list. Your light meal may also include fruit juice, water, coffee or tea.
- Take your prescribed heart, blood pressure, asthma, anti-Parkinson's, steroid, seizure or pain medicines as directed.
- Do not wear make-up or any bulky accessories in your hair.
- Wear comfortable clothing.

After Your Surgery

- Your eyes may feel irritated, or may tear or water for 2 to 3 hours after your surgery.
- You should rest or do quiet activities for the rest of the day.
- Do not rub your eyes.
- You can wear eye shields while sleeping for the first 1 to 3 days, or longer if needed.
- Your eyes may feel dry for several days. This is normal.

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- If you have any discomfort, your eye surgeon may suggest that you take a mild pain reliever.
- You should be able to return to work the day after your surgery. Follow any directions your eye surgeon gives you.

Follow-up Appointments

It is important to keep all follow-up appointments with your eye surgeon, even if you are feeling well. He or she will:

- check how your eyes are healing
- make sure there is no infection
- evaluate your vision change
- answer any questions.

Yearly Eye Exams

Yearly eye exams are important. It is recommended to have a dilated eye exam done by your regular eye doctor every year.