

## You are the reason for high-performance vision at the Shealy Eye Laser Center

Laser Vision myths, as you may have heard!

---

*There are many conflicting stories about Laser Vision Correction among Ophthalmologists, the Internet, and other media sources. Because of this situation information about Laser Vision Correction has been confused and is hard to understand. Our sole purpose at the Shealy Eye Laser Center is to educate you about the different options with regards to Laser Vision Correction, and then we'll let you decide.*

**Fiction:** *LASER VISION CORRECTION COMES IN ONE FORM CALLED LASIK OR (LASER INTRASTROMAL KERATOMILEUSIS)*

**Fact:** Laser Vision Correction can be performed on the surface of a barrier called Bowman's Membrane. This is called no-cap or no-flap laser vision correction. In LASIK the surgery is performed under Bowman's membrane in which a cap or flap is produced in side the structure of the cornea called the Stroma or (body of the cornea). 90% of all the serious, but rare complications have been associated with cutting into the the cornea. *See FDA Link on Home Page.*

**Fiction:** *COMPLICATION AND SIDE EFFECTS, SUCH AS NIGHT GLARE AND DRY EYES, SHOULD BE EXPECTED AFTER HAVING LASER VISION CORRECTION.*

**Fact:** As with any other surgery, there are risks associated with Laser Vision Correction. Clinical studies of laser vision correction have documented the risk of having a serious vision-reducing complication as being extremely low. Many complications can be treated if diagnosed and treated at the early states. Moderate glare and dry eyes are common side effects immediately following the procedure, but typically last just three to six months. Proper testing before the procedure can identify patients who are at a high risk for long-term risk for long-term complications. Pharmaceutical Agents have been developed to treat dry eyes, which are more common with cap or flap Laser Vision Correction.

**Fiction:** *LASER VISION CORRECTION IS SO NEW THAT NO ONE REALLY KNOWS IF THERE ARE ANY LONG-TERM SIDE EFFECTS.*

**Fact:** Although Laser Vision Correction became widely available in the United States in the mid-1990's, the technology was first developed in the early 1980's. The first patient was treated in the United States in 1987. To date, no long-term ill effects of the procedure are known.

**Fiction:** *THERE IS ONLY ONE TYPE OF LASER USED TO TREAT ALL PATIENTS.*

**Fact:** There are a variety of lasers that can be used to treat your eyes. After a proper screening and confirmation of the condition that needs to be corrected, a surgeon can identify the most appropriate laser needed to treat your condition. Each surgeon has his personal preference of excimer lasers based on his ownership and use of broad beam vs. flying spot laser technology.

**Fiction:** *IT DOES NOT MATTER WHICH DOCTOR PERFORMS YOUR PROCEDURE, THE OUTCOMES ARE ALL THE SAME BECAUSE THE LASERS DO ALL THE WORK.*

**Fact:** The surgeon's skill and level is an essential element of success in the outcome of any surgical procedure. The laser surgeon should not abdicate the responsibilities of pre-op and post-op care to another eye care professional. After your surgery at the Shealy Eye Laser Center, you may return to your eye care professional of choice for routine ophthalmologic or optometric care. Any questions related to Laser Vision Correction should be referred to our office as well as any outside opinions.

**Fiction:** *THE BEST INDICATION OF A SURGEON'S ABILITY IS THE NUMBER OF PROCEDURES HE OR SHE HAS PERFORMED.*

**Fact:** This is a very good indication of his or her level of experience. A prospective patient will do better with a doctor who is personable and his practice is solely dedicated to Laser Vision Correction. Family and friends will tend to send each other to the surgeon who is most involved on a one to one basis with their care.

**Fiction:** *LASER VISION CORRECTION CAN FOREVER END ONE'S NEED FOR CONTACT LENSES AND GLASSES.*

**Fact:** The surgeon can estimate for you, the amount of time that you will reduce your dependence on glasses. This can vary from individual to individual based upon their occupational needs, the age of the patient, and lens condition. Keep in mind that a patient may need reading or driving glasses as they get older for a condition known as presbyopia.

**Fiction:** *ANYONE WHO WANTS TO HAVE LASER VISION CORRECTION IS A CANDIDATE.*

**Fact:** Not everyone is considered a candidate for Laser Vision Correction. Patients may be excellent candidates from a technological standpoint; however, personality and the ability to understand the information will include or exclude candidates for surgery. An appropriate examination is also necessary with a previous history of eyeglass and contact lens needs.

**Fiction:** *BECAUSE THE OUTCOMES ARE ALL THE SAME, THE CHEAPEST SURGERY IS NO DIFFERENT THAN THE MOST EXPENSIVE ONE.*

**Fact:** Price is the least important factor in Laser Vision Correction. The old adage, "You get what you pay for," applies to Laser Vision Correction. You only have one set of eyes and you must understand what you are paying for in terms of technology, and who is getting paid for each service. A thorough understanding of the pricing structure is necessary in order to get the best buy, which includes the best possible visual outcome. The surgery must be affordable and the outcome must be of high quality.

**Fiction:** *LASER VISION CORRECTION IS STILL BEING DEVELOPED, AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES ARE BEING INTRODUCED EVERY YEAR. PATIENTS MIGHT BE BEST SERVED WAITING UNTIL DOCTORS FIND THE BEST ONE.*

**Fact:** It is very critical that the patient understands and communicates with his laser surgeon to understand when the time is right and appropriate for his or her own Laser Vision Correction. Understanding Laser Vision Correction can only be achieved through clear and open communication with the ophthalmologist involved. This communication is based upon the experience and the personal relationship with the ophthalmologist.