

Your Health

Myths And Facts About LASIK

(NAPSA)—For those with vision correction needs, the daily rituals required in order to see clearly with glasses or contacts can be a real struggle. So it isn't surprising that so many people consider LASIK as an attractive alternative to treat their vision correction issues. Although it is incredibly popular, LASIK is surprisingly misunderstood. Like many things that make their way into cultural norms, LASIK's prevalence and success have led to the rise of many myths about the procedure. If you are among the millions considering LASIK, the American Refractive Surgery Council is here to dispel some common myths about the laser vision correction surgery:

Myth: The LASIK procedure is the same today as when it was first performed 20 years ago.

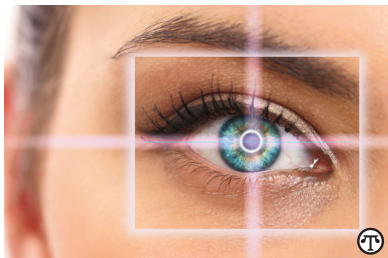
Fact: Many new LASIK technologies and techniques have been introduced over the past two decades, many in just the past few years, that have improved the safety and visual results achieved for people choosing LASIK. As a result, today, LASIK has a 96 percent patient satisfaction rate.

Myth: You can't have LASIK if you have astigmatism.

Fact: LASIK is approved to treat nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. Advancements in LASIK make it possible for more people with different kinds of vision prescriptions to be treated than ever before.

Myth: Everyone who wants LASIK can have it done.

Fact: Not everyone is a good candidate for LASIK. If your corneas are too thin or irregular,



Separate the myths from the facts about LASIK eye surgery and learn what's best for your vision.

or if you have certain eye or health diseases, LASIK may not be right for you. A qualified ophthalmologist specializing in refractive surgery can evaluate your vision and health to help determine if you are a good candidate for LASIK.

Myth: You can cut the cost of LASIK by shopping around for a special deal.

Fact: It's true that many LASIK centers advertise special deals, but when it comes to your vision, you want what's best for your eyes, not your wallet. Bargain-priced vision correction may not include the level of care you want or use the latest technologies. Look for an experienced, highly qualified surgeon who works with the most advanced LASIK technologies available today. One deal you can feel good about: Many refractive surgeons offer free LASIK consultations.

To find out more about LASIK, read the American Refractive Surgery Council's "Insight" blog at www.americanrefrativesurgerycouncil.org/blog.