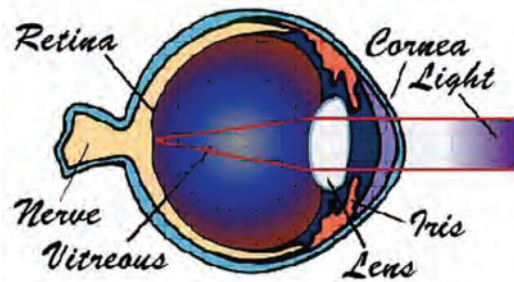


How does the eye see?

The eye is like a camera with two lenses. One is a crystalline lens inside the eye. The other, the cornea, is positioned in the eye like a watch crystal, providing 2/3 of the eye's focusing power. When light rays enter the eye perfectly focused on the retina, the eye is neither nearsighted nor farsighted.



Myopia (nearsightedness) occurs when the eye has too much focusing power. Objects at a distance are blurry, while closer objects may be clearer. Myopia focuses light in front of the retina.

Hyperopia (farsightedness) occurs when the eye lacks sufficient focusing power. Distant objects may be blurry, but near objects are even less clear. Hyperopia focuses light behind the retina.

Astigmatism is a condition in which light rays brought to different points of focus. Astigmatism focuses light in an oblique fashion (football shaped), so no true image forms on the retina.

Presbyopia is a natural condition that typically occurs around age 45. As we get older, the lens of the eye loses its capacity to focus in and out. We begin needing to hold reading material farther away. Ultimately, reading glasses are needed, typically by the mid-40s. Presbyopia focuses light behind the retina at near distances only and the eye doesn't have the strength to "autofocus" at reading distances.

LASIK

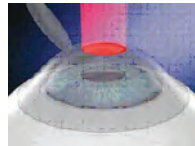
LASIK is a laser surgical technique that treats the middle layers of the cornea. The surgery reshapes the cornea to help the eye to focus at far distances, reducing, or in some cases eliminating, the need for glasses or contact lenses.

LASIK is performed using topical anesthetic (eye drops). A vacuum ring secures the eye while a thin 9-mm circular layer of the cornea is cut into a flap, using a specialized scalpel. This incision does nothing to change the corneal shape. The corneal flap remains connected to the eye, but folded over.

The laser procedure is then performed, reshaping the cornea for improved vision. The laser treatment lasts 30 to 90 seconds. The flap is then returned to its original position. The cornea creates a natural "suction" that holds the flap in place without the need for stitches or glue. Once the LASIK is completed, the eye is observed for 2-3 minutes to ensure the corneal flap has completely adhered. The eye is then covered overnight with a clear plastic eye shield.

The entire procedure takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. This eye shield is worn through the first postoperative day and then nightly for the next four evenings. Patients are placed on antibiotic and anti-inflammatory eye drops to promote comfort, prevent infection, and reduce inflammation. These drops are used four times a day initially and tapered over a few days.

Follow-up examinations are scheduled at one day up to three months postoperatively. There are minimal restrictions on activities following LASIK.



Consumer Warning:

LASIK surgery has recently come under review by the United States Food and Drug Administration, due to an increasing number of post-operative complications. However, the FDA noted that available clinical data failed to suggest significant problems following LASIK surgery. Such complications are extremely rare when candidates are properly screened. Be sure to see a certified eye surgeon, who has extensive experience in screening patients and performing surgery, like Dr. Khater. We encourage you to check our record. (Go to our website at www.westtexaseye.com for the link to the American Board of Medical Specialties.)

PRK

PRK, or photorefractive keratectomy is a laser technique that treats the middle layers of the cornea to correct hyperopia (farsightedness), myopia (nearsightedness) and astigmatism. The purpose of PRK is to reshape the cornea to help the eye to focus at far distances, reducing, or in some cases eliminating, the need for glasses or contact lenses. PRK is performed using topical anesthetic (eye drops that eliminate pain). Next, a small spring-like device is inserted to help keep the eye open. Using a small hand instrument, the front surface cells of the cornea are gently removed. This allows access to the layers of the cornea, which need to be treated by the laser. The laser procedure is then performed on the cornea. It is this "lasering" that shapes the cornea for improved vision. The laser treatment lasts 30 to 90 seconds. Afterwards, a contact lens is placed over the front surface of the cornea. This contact lens acts as a bandage to help the cornea heal its front surface. The entire procedure takes about 5 minutes to complete. Patients are typically amazed at the comfort and speed of the procedure.