



LASER EYE SURGERY

CAN LASER EYE SURGERY FIX ASTIGMATISM?

Most people have some degree of astigmatism, but it is generally mild and does not cause significant vision changes, or require any treatment. However, correction is necessary when astigmatism causes blurred or distorted vision. There is a common misconception that laser eye surgery is not a suitable treatment for astigmatism, but both LASIK and ASLA have been used to correct astigmatism for many years now.

What causes astigmatism?

A normal eye is round, like a soccer ball, which allows light to enter as a single ray and focus at one point on the light-sensitive tissue at the back of your eye (retina). If you have astigmatism, your eye is shaped more like a rugby ball, which causes light to enter your eye at two points. When light focuses on the retina at multiple points, your vision becomes blurred or fuzzy.

How do I know if I have astigmatism?

The main symptom of astigmatism is blurred vision at all distances. You may also experience headaches, squinting, eyestrain and fatigue after reading. An optometrist can diagnose astigmatism during a routine eye exam.

How does laser eye surgery correct astigmatism?

During laser eye surgery for astigmatism, a laser is used to correct the curvature of the front of the eye. In other words, a small amount of corneal tissue is removed so that the eye is shaped more like a soccer ball. Laser eye surgery can also be

used to correct short-sightedness (myopia) and long-sightedness (hyperopia) during the same procedure. Both of these conditions commonly occur together with astigmatism.

Can everyone with astigmatism have laser eye surgery?

Most people with astigmatism who meet basic eligibility criteria will be able to have laser eye surgery.

An experienced surgeon will undertake a comprehensive evaluation to understand your eyes and any relevant lifestyle factors before recommending any type of treatment, including laser eye surgery.

Patients with astigmatism who are over 55 may be better suited to lens exchange surgery, rather than laser eye surgery. During this procedure, the eye's natural lens is removed and replaced with an artificial lens. Alternatively, prescription glasses or contact lenses can also correct astigmatism.

Is laser eye surgery for astigmatism safe?

Millions of people with astigmatism have had laser vision correction and studies show that LASIK and ASLA are low-risk, effective procedures for people with this type of refractive error. Ongoing improvements in technology also continue to reduce the rates of side-effects and other complications.

All medical and surgical procedures have potential complications. Check with your doctor before proceeding.

Impaired vision with astigmatism

