



Transforming lives. That's our vision.



SMILE[®]

LASER

—
**THE SMILE THAT CAN
TRANSFORM YOUR VISION
AND YOUR LIFE**

SMILE[®] is a registered trademark of Carl Zeiss Meditec.

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WHAT IS SMILE LASER?

SMILE stands for **SM**all **I**ncision **L**enticule **E**xtraction and is a next-generation laser vision correction technique that provides excellent visual results for patients. Best of all, it's an established procedure backed by more than a decade of data.

SMILE is an alternative to LASIK for the treatment of short-sightedness (myopia) and/or astigmatism. It is not approved to treat long-sightedness (hyperopia or presbyopia).

Certain people may be better suited to SMILE, including those with a moderate to high degree of short-sightedness, athletes who play contact sports and people at a higher risk of developing dry eye after surgery.



Benefits of SMILE¹

- Minimally invasive
- High precision
- Bladeless
- Single laser step
- No corneal flap created
- Minimal effect on corneal nerves supplying the tear glands
- Minimal downtime, especially for swimming and contact sports



SMILE HAS NOW BEEN USED TO TREAT MORE THAN ONE MILLION EYES WORLDWIDE.¹

Proven safe and effective

SMILE vision correction offers patients a laser eye surgery procedure that has been proven as effective, safe and comfortable. Performed in more than 60 countries worldwide, SMILE uses femtosecond laser technology – the same technology that has been used in LASIK vision correction surgery since the early 2000s. This laser produces pulses of light that are of extremely short duration (a femtosecond, which is one quadrillionth of a second).

The end result, however, does depend on the experience and skill of the operating surgeon. Since it was approved locally in 2014, Vision Eye Institute surgeons have performed the most SMILE procedures in Australia and New Zealand and are regularly invited to present on this surgical technique at national and international conferences.



1. Carl Zeiss Meditec Relax SMILE <https://www.zeiss.com/meditec-patient/int/laser-eye-surgery/treatment-options/smile.html> (accessed online 14 June 2018).

HOW DOES SMILE WORK?

The cornea is the curved, clear layer that forms the front of the eye and can be thought of as the eye's 'windscreen'.

It consists of five layers and helps to bend light rays so that they focus on the retina at the back of the eye. Short-sightedness and/or astigmatism are due to a mismatch between the shape of the cornea and the length of the eye – this means that light rays do not focus directly on the retina and vision is blurry.

An ultra-fast laser is used to perform the minimally invasive, high-precision SMILE procedure. Unlike LASIK, SMILE does not involve the creation of a corneal flap.

In one short step, the laser silently creates a tiny 3 mm incision in the first layer of the cornea (the epithelium), as well as a precisely calculated, removable disc of underlying corneal tissue (the stroma). This part of the procedure takes less than 25 seconds.

The disc of tissue (referred to as a lenticule) is then removed through the incision to reshape the cornea and correct vision. Since no flap is created, the top layer of the cornea is left essentially intact and healing occurs quickly – this is why SMILE patients can return quicker to swimming and contact sports than LASIK patients. However, it generally takes slightly longer for vision to completely stabilise following SMILE surgery.

Because there is minimal interference with corneal nerves during SMILE procedures, you are less likely to develop post-operative dry eye.

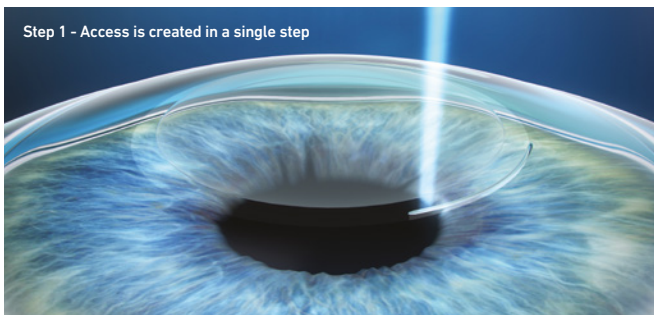
For more information about SMILE laser vision correction, visit

www.visioneyeinstitute.com.au/services/laser-eye-surgery/

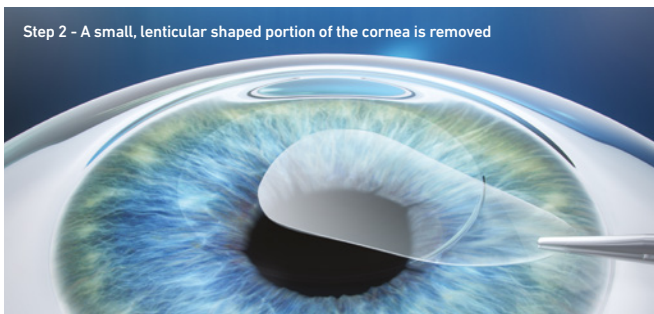
All medical and surgical procedures have potential complications. Check with your doctor before proceeding.



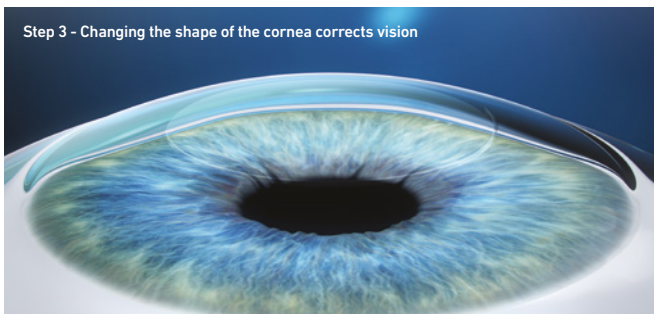
Step 1 - Access is created in a single step



Step 2 - A small, lenticular shaped portion of the cornea is removed



Step 3 - Changing the shape of the cornea corrects vision



WHO IS SMILE SUITABLE FOR?

SMILE is an alternative to LASIK for patients with regularly shaped corneas. It is particularly suited to patients who:

- have a moderate to high degree of short-sightedness and astigmatism
- are at a higher risk of post-operative dry eye
- wish to return quickly to swimming and contact sports (e.g. athletes).

If you suffer from short-sightedness and/or astigmatism and meet other basic eligibility criteria (18–55 years of age, stable glasses prescription for 12 months, healthy eyes, not pregnant or breastfeeding), SMILE may be an option for you.

We recommend that you book in for an in-depth consultation with one of our specialist laser eye surgeons to discuss your options.

THIS APPOINTMENT ALSO INCLUDES COMPREHENSIVE TESTING AND EXAMINATION OF YOUR EYES BY OUR EXPERIENCED CLINICAL TEAM BEFORE YOU MEET WITH THE SURGEON.

SMILE is not approved to treat long-sightedness.

Why should I choose Vision Eye Institute?

Our mission is to remain at the forefront of technology and clinical research to ensure the best outcomes for our patients. As the largest private provider of ophthalmic services in Australia, we are able to ensure that our clinics are equipped with the latest state-of-the-art technology.

Our laser eye surgeons were among the first in Australia to perform SMILE and, between them, have now performed the most SMILE procedures in Australia and New Zealand.

FAQs



Is laser eye surgery safe?

For people who meet the suitability criteria, laser eye surgery is one of the safest elective surgical procedures available today. Therefore, it is important that you choose a reputable surgeon who will advise you if you are not a suitable candidate. SMILE and other laser eye surgery procedures have been available for many years and are very well established. Advances in technology continue to reduce the already low risk of side-effects or complications.

What are the potential side-effects?

Your surgeon will discuss the benefits and risks of laser eye surgery during your consultation. No medical or surgical procedure is completely free of risk, so it is important that you are able to make an informed decision. The rate of post-operative side-effects will depend on the skill and experience of the surgeon you choose.

Although uncommon, side-effects may include over- or under-correction requiring a follow-up enhancement procedure and temporary post-operative dry eye. Enhancement rates for SMILE are similar to LASIK and ASLA (approximately 1–2%) and re-treatment is included free of charge for up to two years if you have your procedure at Vision Eye Institute.

Do I still need glasses or contacts after laser eye surgery?

Most people can get rid of their glasses or contacts after laser eye surgery, but some people with a high prescription may still need these after the procedure (though the prescription will be much weaker). Laser eye surgery changes your cornea but doesn't protect your eyes from the lens-related vision changes that occur with age (known as presbyopia), so reading glasses may still be required when you reach your mid-40s.

How long does recovery take?

Recovery is generally quite quick because SMILE is a minimally invasive, keyhole procedure. Most people can see well the next day, although your vision may take a few weeks to completely stabilise. You will be able to return to work and resume driving two to three days after the surgery.

SMILE LASER

Book a laser consultation with one of our refractive specialists at Vision Eye Institute Bondi Junction, Chatswood or Hurstville.

A/Prof Colin Chan

Vision Correction Surgery, Cataract and Laser Cataract Surgery, Corneal Surgery

Dr Tess Huynh

Vision Correction Surgery, Cataract and Laser Cataract Surgery, Corneal Surgery, General Ophthalmology

A/Prof Michael Lawless

Vision Correction Surgery, Cataract and Laser Cataract Surgery

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SMILE laser eye surgery is performed at our Chatswood clinic.

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