

GENERAL INFORMATION

LASER EYE SURGERY



vision
eye institute

WHAT IS LASER EYE SURGERY?

Laser eye surgery is a form of vision correction that involves using a cool-temperature laser to reshape the cornea to correct a refractive error. A refractive error occurs when the eye is abnormally shaped and can't focus light directly on the retina at the back of the eye, resulting in out-of-focus, blurry vision.

Examples of refractive error include short-sightedness (myopia), long-sightedness (hyperopia), age-related long-sightedness (presbyopia) and astigmatism. Laser eye surgery is an alternative option to prescription glasses and/or contact lenses.

Laser eye surgery is also referred to as refractive surgery.

Who can have laser eye surgery?

If you meet the following basic criteria, you may be eligible for laser eye surgery. You will need a consultation with a surgeon to confirm your eligibility.

Age	Between 18 and 55 years old
Vision problem	Short-sightedness, long-sightedness and/or astigmatism
Stable vision	Glasses prescription has remained the same for at least 12 months
General eye health	Healthy with no history of eye problems or serious eye injury
General health	Good, not pregnant or breastfeeding





HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

As a rough guide, laser eye surgery can cost between \$2400 to \$3950 per eye.

What's included in the cost?

After an initial assessment at a Vision Eye Institute clinic, you will receive a detailed quote for your laser eye surgery procedure. Our prices are fully transparent and includes your surgeon and laser/theatre fees, post-operative medications as required for the first four to six weeks, post-operative consultations for six months, and any recommended enhancements within two years from the initial surgery.

Some providers do not include all charges that you will incur before, during and after your laser eye surgery procedure (including enhancement or follow-up procedures) in their quotes. Make sure you know what is included in the quote when comparing costs between providers.

Is it covered by Medicare or health insurance?

Medicare does not rebate any of the cost of laser eye surgery, apart from some of the pre-surgical consultation. Some health insurers do offer a rebate. For example, BUPA Ultimate Health and Medibank Gold Ultra Health members receive 100% cover for laser eye surgery (36-month waiting period; lifetime limits may apply). It's best to check your level of cover, and any terms and conditions, with your insurer.

Medibank members' offer

Medibank members with selected extras and packaged covers can receive 15% off surgical fees if they have their procedure performed at Vision Eye Institute (no waiting period applies; excludes consultation fees and diagnostic tests; pending health fund eligibility check).

Do you offer payment plans?

We offer interest-free, flexible payment options for laser eye surgery in partnership with humm and Gem Visa so you can See Now, Pay Later. Refer to the laser eye surgery payment plan fact sheet on our website for more information.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF LASER EYE SURGERY?

LASIK

This is a two-step vision correction procedure. The surgeon uses a femtosecond laser to create a flap in the top layer of the cornea (the epithelium and stroma), exposing the tissue bed underneath. An excimer laser is then used to precisely reshape the corneal tissue bed to correct the patient's refractive error. Finally, the surgeon places the corneal flap back in its original position.

Because the flap adheres to the corneal bed, the healing process begins immediately. The eye has a remarkable ability to heal itself and patients are able to return to most of their daily activities the next day.

SMILE® pro

SMILE pro is a one-step, one-laser procedure using minimally invasive, keyhole surgery – the laser makes a tiny 3 mm incision and then creates a disc (lenticule) of corneal tissue. This disc is then removed to reshape the cornea and correct the refractive error. Since no flap was created, the top layer of the cornea is essentially intact.

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



LASIK - Laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis, SMILE - Small incision lenticule extraction, ASLA - Advanced Surface Laser Ablation, PRK - Photorefractive Keratectomy



ASLA (PRK)

The traditional ASLA (or PRK) technique uses a topical solution to soften the top layer of corneal cells, allowing them to be gently removed. The excimer laser is then used to reshape the exposed corneal tissue bed to correct the patient's refractive error. For transPRK ('no touch' PRK), the surgeon uses the excimer laser to perform both steps.

A 'bandage' contact lens is placed on top of the eye for 4–5 days to aid the healing process. PRK is generally recommended for patients who have thin or unusual corneas.

MONOVISION/BLENDED VISION

This procedure involves correcting one eye (usually the dominant one) for distance vision and the other eye for reading/near vision. When looking into the distance, your brain pays more attention to the eye that is focused for distance and vice versa when looking at close objects (i.e. your brain relies more on the eye that is focused for near distance). Overall, the images from both eyes are processed by your brain as one blended image.

Monovision can be achieved using laser eye surgery (e.g. LASIK, SMILE pro or ASLA) or artificial lenses (e.g. replacement lenses or implantable phakic lenses).

Before having surgery, patients typically complete a contact lens trial to make sure they are comfortable adapting to the visual change.

A Monovision outcome can sometimes be enhanced by altering the corneal profile to give slightly better near vision. This is sometimes referred to as PRESBYOND® or PresbyMAX®.

COMPREHENSIVE EYE CARE



Scan the QR code to learn more about this service on our website

Vision Eye Institute is the largest private provider of ophthalmic services in Australia. Our team of highly regarded doctors includes general ophthalmologists as well as those who specialise in specific areas/conditions of the eye.

LASER EYE SURGERY



CATARACT & LENS SURGERY



GLAUCOMA



DIABETIC EYE DISEASE



MACULAR DEGENERATION



RETINAL CONDITIONS



KERATOCONUS



DRY EYE



PTERYGIUM



CORNEAL TRANSPLANTATION



CORNEAL CONDITIONS



NERVE-RELATED VISION PROBLEMS



RECONSTRUCTIVE EYE SURGERY



CHILDREN'S EYE HEALTH



GENERAL EYE HEALTH



OUR LASER EYE SURGERY CLINICS

For more information or to find a Vision Eye Institute clinic that offers laser eye surgery, visit:

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

This information is general in nature. All medical and surgical procedures have potential benefits and risks. Consult your ophthalmologist for specific medical advice.



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Transforming lives. That's our vision.