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## INTRALASE Method

### Commonly Asked Questions

**Q. How is the IntraLase Method different from other methods of creating a corneal flap?**

The IntraLase Method is the most advanced technology available—and the first blade-free way to create a corneal flap.

Prior to the IntraLase Methods, doctors relied on an instrument called a microkeratome for the creation of corneal flaps. The microkeratome is a hand-held steel blade that creates a cut as it travels across the cornea. While LASIK complications are rare, when they do occur they are primarily related to the use of the microkeratome.

With the IntraLase Method a blade never touches your eye.

**Q. How does the IntraLase Method work?**

A. The IntraLase Method uses tiny, ultra-precise pulses of laser light to create the corneal flap—a blade is not used. The exact dimension of the layer of bubbles is determined by your doctor based on what's best for your eye, and is computer controlled for maximum precision. The IntraLase flap creation process takes about 15 to 30 seconds. When LASIK is complete, a flap created using the IntraLase Method is uniquely able to “lock” back into place allowing your eye to begin healing more rapidly.

**Q. What is the difference between a corneal flap created with the IntraLase Method and one created with a microkeratome?**

A. The biggest difference is that more patients achieve vision that is 20/20 or better when their LASIK procedure is performed with the IntraLase Method. And patients report better quality of vision overall, particularly in terms of their ability to see well in low light such as at dusk or at night.

**Q. Is the IntraLase Method better for the eye?**

A. Unlike the one-dimensional cut made by a blade, the IntraLase Method gives your doctor the ability to tailor the dimensions of your corneal flap based on what's best for your eye. Everything from the circumference of your flap to the angle of its edges can be precisely determined. This is important because everyone's eyes are shaped a little differently. Having a corneal flap that's individualized to the patient contributes to excellent postoperative vision.

A corneal flap created with the IntraLase Method also “locks” back into position after the LASIK procedure is performed and rapidly begins to heal.

**Q. Is the IntraLase Method proven, or is it still being tested out?**

A. IntraLase technology has been in existence since 2001. To date, it has been used in hundreds of thousands of LASIK procedures around the world.

**Q. How long does it take to create a flap using the IntraLase Method?**

A. The creation of the flap itself takes only about 15 to 30 seconds per eye.

**Q. Is it painful?**

A. Prior to creating the flap, the doctor applies drops to numb the eye, then applies a special ring and an instrument that gently flattens your cornea in preparation for the IntraLase method. This part of the process takes about 10 minutes and is not painful—patients report feeling only slight pressure.

**Q. What's the reaction of patients who have experienced the IntraLase Method?**

A. In a clinical survey, the vision in the IntraLase –treated eye was preferred by LASIK patients 3-to-1 over the vision in the microkeratome-treated eye (among those who stated a preference.)