

Information From Your Eye M.D.

SELECTING A REFRACTIVE SURGEON

If you are considering refractive surgery for the correction of nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia) or distorted vision (astigmatism) to minimize your need for glasses or contact lenses, be sure to discuss your visual needs and expectations with your Eye M.D. (ophthalmologist).

If you have specific occupational goals, such as enlisting in the military or law enforcement, you also may want to ask prospective employers about any restrictions they may have on refractive surgery.

Questions to Ask

Once you have found an Eye M.D. who performs refractive surgery, ask him or her the following questions:

- Do you monitor your outcomes on all your patients?
- How long have you been doing refractive surgery?
- How much experience do you have with this particular procedure (LASIK, PRK, LASEK, CK, LTK, etc.)?
- How do you define success?
- What is your success rate?
- How many of your patients have attained 20/20 or 20/40 vision?
- What are my chances for attaining 20/20 vision?
- How many of your patients achieve the vision they want with the first procedure?
- How many of your patients return for additional procedures (enhancements)?
- What laser will you be using? Has it been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for this particular procedure?
- What kind of care will I need after surgery? Who will provide this care?
- What will be the cost of the postoperative care?
- What are the risks and possible complications of this procedure?
- Will the surgeon who does my surgery provide care for me afterwards?
- How long will my postoperative care be at no charge?

How to Find a Refractive Surgeon

To find a refractive surgeon in your area, visit the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Web site at <http://www.aao.org> and click on "Find an Eye M.D."

Where Can I Get More Information?

Your Eye M.D. is the best source of information on refractive surgery, as well as eye health and safety. If you would like more information on refractive surgery, please visit the American Academy of Ophthalmology's public information Web site at www.medem.com/eyemd.

Approved by: The Eye Health and Public Information Task Force

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