

Laser Eye Center at UofL Health – Medical Center East

UofL Health – Medical Center East now offers patients refractive eye surgery at its new Laser Eye Center.

Featuring both an excimer and a femtosecond laser, the lasers are used by both UofL Physicians ophthalmologists and independent ophthalmologists from around the state to perform refractive surgeries including Laser-Assisted In Situ Keratomileusis (LASIK) and Photorefractive Keratectomy (PRK) to treat nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism along with other disorders of the eye including removing scar tissue, calcium deposits and nodules.

The Laser Eye Center at Medical Center East is also the site for the training of residents from the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at both the University of Louisville (UofL) and the University of Kentucky (UK).

Begun in 2018, the UofL and UK Departments of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences are two of only four programs in the United States supported by Johnson & Johnson Vision, and in which residents are trained to perform LASIK and PRK during their residency training. Physicians in the laser center train the residents to perform these procedures following required didactic and wet lab training by representatives from Johnson & Johnson Vision. Residents perform surgeries under the direction of UofL Physicians ophthalmologist, Richard Eiferman, M.D. professor of ophthalmology at the University of Louisville and Frank Burns, M.D., an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.



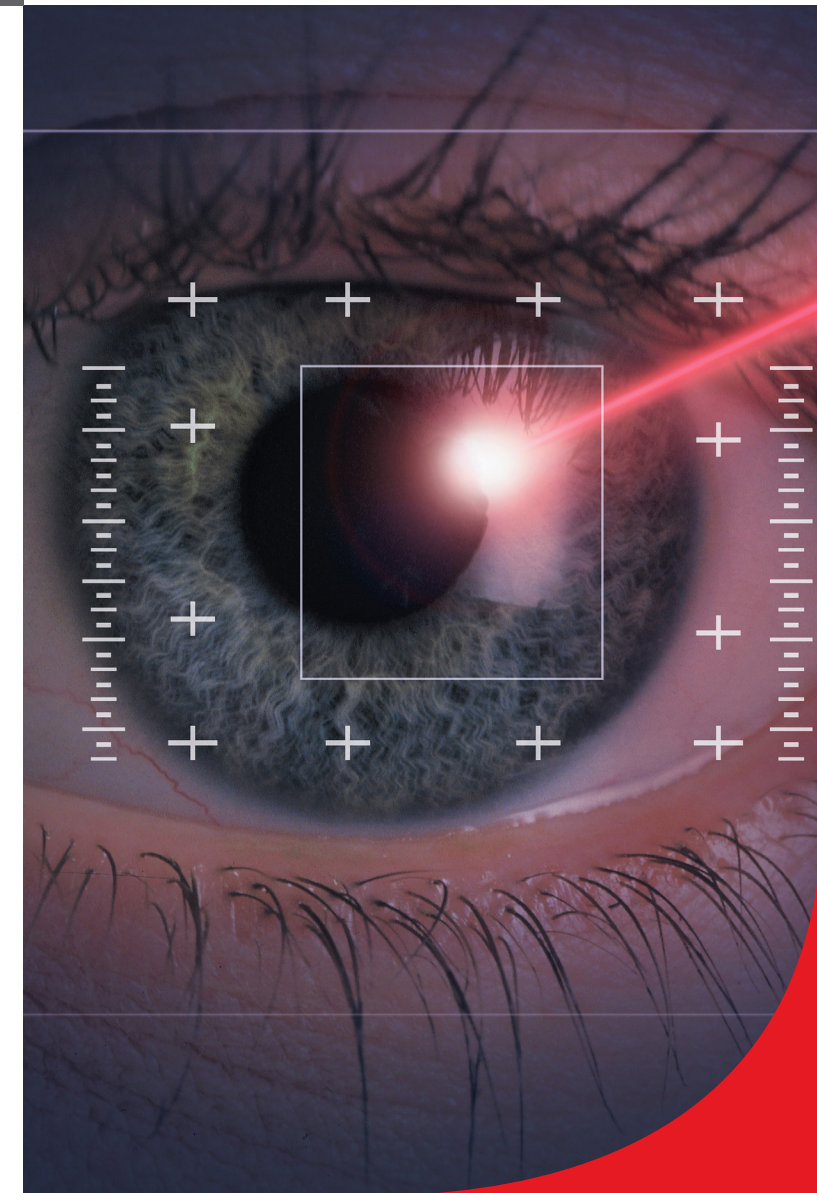
UofL Health Medical Center East

Laser Eye Center
3920 Dutchman's Lane
Louisville, KY 40207
P: 502-259-6277

UofLHealth.org

Patients can receive information on the Laser Eye Center, including scheduling information, by calling 502-259-6277 or by going to UofLHealth.org/laser-eye-center.

UofL Health | Medical Center East



UofLHealth.org

Laser Eye Center

About Laser Refractive Eye Procedures

If you are frustrated with always having to wear contact lenses or glasses, you may wonder whether you are eligible for laser corrective eye surgery.

Conditions and Symptoms

LASIK surgeons perform refractive surgery to correct nearsightedness (myopia), farsightedness (hyperopia), and astigmatism:

- Nearsightedness (myopia) – close objects appear clear, but objects that are farther away appear blurry; occurs if the eyeball is too long or the cornea has too much curvature
- Farsightedness (hyperopia) – distant objects appear clear, but close objects do not come into clear focus; occurs if the eyeball is too short or the cornea has too little curvature
- Astigmatism – blurred vision created from the prevention of light properly focusing on the retina; occurs from an irregularly shaped cornea or the irregular curvature of the lens inside the eye

Common symptoms treated by LASIK:

- Need to squint in order to focus
- Blurry vision
- Fatigue or headaches caused by eye strain
- Blurry vision when looking at distant objects (myopia)
- Difficulty seeing while driving at night (night myopia)
- Difficulty in maintaining clear focus on close objects (hyperopia)
- Difficulty in focusing on both close or distant objects due to ghosting of images (astigmatism)

Candidate Requirements

The FDA and American Academy of Ophthalmology have developed guidelines for good LASIK candidates:

- You should be at least 18 years of age (21 in cases of astigmatism), because vision tends to change more frequently in people younger than 18.
- You should not have this procedure if you are pregnant or breast-feeding, because these conditions can affect eye measurements.
- You should not have this procedure if you take certain prescription drugs, such as Accutane, Cardarone, Imitrex, or oral prednisone.
- You should have healthy eyes with a stable prescription.
- You should be in good general health. LASIK may not be recommended for patients with diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, glaucoma, herpes infections of the eye, or cataracts.
- You should discuss any other health concerns with your LASIK surgeon before undergoing the procedure.

Photorefractive Keratectomy (PRK)

If you are not a good candidate for LASIK, you may be able to receive PRK (photorefractive keratectomy). In this procedure, the outermost layer of the cornea (the epithelium) is removed and the treatment is delivered to the underlying tissue. A bandage contact lens is placed over the eye after the treatment for the first few days after surgery to allow the epithelium to regrow and heal. The visual outcomes from this procedure are the same as LASIK.



Frequently Asked Questions

How is the LASIK procedure performed?

The procedure consists of reshaping the cornea by first creating a flap, which is lifted, prior to delivering the laser treatment to the underlying cornea. Surgeons are trained to accurately calculate the dimensions of the flap on the cornea to be lifted and the correct amount of tissue that should be removed to reshape the eye for better vision. Once the laser has reshaped the cornea, the flap is laid back in place. The procedure takes 10-15 minutes per eye.

What can I expect after LASIK?

We will provide specialized eye gear for you to wear after the procedure. Patients are required to come in for a post-operative checkup the day after the procedure. LASIK is intended to have an immediate effect with improved vision the day after the procedure and the vision will continue to stabilize over the next few days. At your post-operative appointment, your surgeon will provide you a time frame of recovery, including when you will be able to return to work/school or safely drive a vehicle.