

# WHAT EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW BEFORE HAVING LASIK SURGERY

Let us help answer some of the most commonly asked questions

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## ISN'T ALL LASIK THE SAME?

No, there are many variations of the Lasik procedure, based upon the equipment used. When the military approved Lasik for astronauts in 2007, they chose bladeless iLasik. This represented a specific combination of all-laser equipment, no blades involved, that yielded what they felt to be the most accurate, fastest healing, and safest Lasik available. This was the procedure of choice at Hale Vision until 2016 when TLC Milwaukee/Hale Vision upgraded to the Wavelight Contoura system. This system produced the best visual results ever seen in a Lasik trial by the FDA.

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## DO I HAVE TO STOP WEARING MY CONTACTS PRIOR TO A LASIK EXAM AND PROCEDURE?

Yes, to obtain the best results it is necessary to discontinue contacts and allow the eye to recover from the changes caused by wearing them. At TLC Milwaukee/Hale Vision soft lenses of all styles should be removed for 1 week prior to final testing and the procedure itself. All hard or rigid contacts require removal for at least 3 weeks. These represent minimum times and in reality it could be longer depending on the condition of your cornea which is usually related to your contact lens wearing history.

At TLC Milwaukee/Hale Vision, we understand that this is an inconvenience and have developed a "consultation system" that allows you to get a very good assessment of your candidacy without the extended contact lens removal. However, as an FDA laser physician certifier for 17 years, Dr. Hale states "I can assure you that these contact lens requirements were created for a reason and are essential for the quality of your eventual results. Prospective patients should be wary of any facility that doesn't abide by them until there is evidence that these guidelines should be changed."

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## WHAT WOULD DISQUALIFY YOU FOR HAVING LASIK?

**Automatic disqualifiers are called "contra-indications" and include:**

- *Current Pregnancy & Breast Feeding*
- *Collagen Vascular Diseases, ie, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Lupus, etc.*
- *Autoimmune Disease and Immunodeficiency Disease*
- *Keratoconus*
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*Active use of the drugs Accutane or Cordarone (or derivatives) in the past 6 months*

**Personal disqualifiers are often discovered during the evaluation and include:**

- *Thin corneas, some corneal scars, previous diseases or trauma to the eye, retinal diseases, too high of a prescription, and some other issues that can be found during the exam.*

**Note that patients disqualified for Lasik may be eligible for another surgical option at Hale Vision as we are not limited to laser only vision correction procedures. You should not abandon your search just because you have something mentioned on the above lists or have been previously told you were not a candidate.**

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## DOES HAVING "DRY EYES" MAKE ME A POOR CANDIDATE FOR LASIK?

Maybe. Temporary dry eye is the number one side effect of Lasik, so this could be worsened by having a preexisting condition of dry eye. If you have mild or moderate dry eye that can be cleared up, you may now be a candidate. However, if the dryness is severe or cannot be controlled, then one of our other non-laser solutions may be a better option for you.

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## WILL MY NIGHT VISION BE WORSE AFTER LASIK?

Glare and halo is sometimes noticed after Lasik. This is usually temporary and mild and resolves as the eye heals. Recent FDA studies showed that with the new CONTOURA procedure night vision actually can actually be better than before the procedure. In a small number of cases, night vision issues can linger due to the overall vision not being quite sharp enough. This can be resolved with an enhancement or secondary "tuning" procedure.

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## HOW DO I CHOOSE A CENTER OR A SURGEON FOR LASIK?

Look at a surgeon's commitment to the field, the depth of his experience and his reputation. The number of surgeries performed is something often highlighted by individual surgeons and most very experienced surgeons have done tens of thousands of cases. Dr. Hale is one of handful of surgeons who served as a FDA physician certifier in Wisconsin for over 16 years.

- He brought the first Visx laser to the Milwaukee area.
- He brought the first Intralase laser to Milwaukee.
- He performed the first iLasik in Milwaukee
- He began doing refractive surgery in 1984; 12 years before the lasers were approved.
- He performed the first bladeless Contoura treatment in the Milwaukee area.
- He has been on the staff of the Medical College of Wisconsin and the University of Utah as an Associate Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology and participated in the refractive surgery training of the eye residents and fellows.
- Dr. Hale created the Advanced Vision Correction Foundation, LLC and has been involved in the training of hundreds of doctors around the country, including most of those in the Milwaukee area, in different refractive surgery techniques over a period of twenty years. He is totally dedicated to this field and has earned the reputation worthy of a doctor who has devoted his professional life to the well-being of other's vision, and to promote physician training in vision correction.

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## HEAR FROM ONE OF OUR PAST PATIENTS



Prior to the surgery I was going through a rough time with my vision. I could no longer wear contacts and my 20/2000 vision prevented me from enjoying active sports and hobbies that were dependent on excellent vision. I had dry eyes and was often uncomfortable while wearing glasses when working on computers at my graphic design job.

The first LASIK surgeon I visited told me I was not a candidate for this type of procedure. Several months later I was delighted to discover I was a candidate by your requirements. Weeks later I was freed from glasses and contact lenses for the first time in my life. My girlfriend at the time (now my wife) also had LASIK a couple years later and she has also had fantastic results!

Five years later my vision is excellent and I could not be happier. One of my new hobbies is flying remote controlled airplanes. With only the help of polarized sun glasses I have excellent long distant vision. Sincerely, Joshua

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Contact us at 262-789-9179 or [lynn.angelroth@vgroupholdings.com](mailto:lynn.angelroth@vgroupholdings.com) to schedule your complimentary consultation.

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