



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. *Why IntraLASIK?*

- A.** Traditional LASIK is an excellent procedure. In fact, Dr. Beitman has done over 15,000 cases with the traditional approach and technology. While the risk of complication in his hands is very minimal, all surgery carries some degree of risk. Now, an advanced laser technology is available that significantly reduces the risk of complications. It is known as *IntraLASIK*.

With *IntraLASIK*, Dr. Beitman believes he can give his patients an even greater level of confidence in vision correction surgery.

Q. *How is IntraLASIK different from traditional LASIK?*

- A.** LASIK surgery is actually a 2-step process. First, a flap of corneal tissue must be created and then folded back. The cornea is the transparent dome-like structure that covers the iris and pupil of your eye. By creating a flap in the cornea, the surgeon is able to perform the laser vision correction treatment on the inner layer of the cornea, which practically eliminates any patient discomfort and allows for a rapid visual recovery.

Traditionally, the surgeon created the corneal flap with a hand-held mechanical device which utilizes a metal blade. This method has worked well over the years; however, the performance of these devices *can be* unpredictable. And although LASIK complications are rare, this mechanical device is frequently the source for many of the reported complications.

With *IntraLASIK*, the surgeon uses the precision of a laser to create the corneal flap. The accuracy of the laser (± 10 microns) is unparalleled by any other technology in vision correction surgery. This advanced technology puts unprecedented control in the hands of the surgeon, and even allows him to *customize* the corneal flap for every individual patient. Because of its consistent accuracy, *IntraLASIK* now makes it possible to treat many patients who were dismissed as candidates for laser vision correction due to thin corneas.

Q. Is *IntraLASIK* safer?

A. *IntraLASIK* is considered by many to provide a safer approach to vision correction surgery. This is a result of the superior precision of a computer-controlled laser as compared to that of a hand-held mechanical device. The mechanical device houses a metal blade which cuts across the cornea to create the flap. *IntraLASIK* accomplishes the flap procedure with a laser instead of a blade, and does not travel across the cornea; these features reduce the risk of complications.

IntraLASIK provides a safer procedure because of its precision. This precision was documented in studies conducted for the FDA clearance of the laser, where the accuracy of flap thickness was demonstrated at +/- 10 microns. Precise flap thickness is critical to a successful LASIK outcome, and *IntraLASIK* created flaps feature a consistent thickness from edge to edge. Again, this degree of accuracy is unprecedented in flap creation technology to date.

Finally, greater flap stability was also demonstrated with *IntraLASIK* flaps in studies for the laser's FDA submission. Although the incidence of flap slippage is rare in LASIK, the consequences can be quite problematical. The assurance that the *IntraLASIK* created flap will be securely re-positioned without incident provides added peace of mind for many patients.

Q. Is traditional LASIK unsafe?

A. Lasik, the most popular elective medical procedure in the United States, is very safe. However, *IntraLASIK* appears to reduce the risk of complications reported with traditional LASIK and we believe that is a very important advance for our patients.

Q. Is *IntraLASIK* new? How is Dr. Beitman able to offer *IntraLASIK* when others in the area do not?

A. The INTRALASE FS Laser has been cleared by the FDA and became commercially available on a limited basis in 2001. The INTRALASE FS Laser is the only laser that provides *IntraLASIK*. To date, over 15,000 procedures have been completed with no significant complications reported. Dr. Beitman is among an elite group of key opinion leaders in ophthalmology who continually evaluate advanced technologies and adopt them into practice as soon as they become available.

Q. How would you compare the visual outcomes using *IntraLASIK* with those of traditional LASIK?

A. Today it is known that visual outcomes with *IntraLASIK* are comparable with those of traditional LASIK. Studies are now underway to evaluate whether results with *IntraLASIK* might be even better, as has been anecdotally reported.

Q. I have seen several advertisements for “All Laser LASIK.” Is this *IntraLASIK*?

A. **Be sure to ask for *IntraLASIK* by name.** Only *IntraLASIK* offers the safety of micron level precision of a truly all laser surgical approach. Other providers may advertise all laser, but you should ensure that *IntraLASIK* is indeed being used to create your flap. Your surgical provider should be happy to answer any questions you may have about your procedure in great detail.

Q. A very close friend had traditional LASIK surgery with Dr. Beitman, and today enjoys 20/20 vision. Why should I pay more for *IntraLASIK*?

A. Because we believe it is very compelling technology that significantly raises the standard for safety in vision correction surgery, we are generally recommending *IntraLASIK* for all of our patients. You should discuss your concerns directly with Dr. Beitman or his colleague, Dr. Rautio as certain vision disorders and corneal anatomy may be associated with a higher degree of risk. Dr. Beitman and Dr. Rautio will help you to decide which is best for you.

Q. Is *IntraLASIK* more expensive?

A. Advanced technologies are usually more expensive for the surgeon to employ in his practice. Most patients agree that the added level of safety and assurance offered by *IntraLASIK* is well worth the additional cost when considering vision correction surgery.

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