

HOW TO ...Choose a Laser Vision Correction Centre



Imagine being able to play sports, swim, drive, or just fall asleep without worrying about glasses or contact lenses. If this sounds interesting to you, read on.

Kelowna Laser Vision has been in operation for over thirteen years and has a strong dedication to educating and treating their patients with the highest level of medical excellence. The medical team performs lasik, PRK (surface ablation) and monovision as well as something many other laser eye surgery clinics don't offer, refractive lens exchange. "We will always be at the leading edge of refractive eye care which means we can offer the treatments that are best for our patients," said Dr. Joel Casey, Optometrist and one of the Clinic's Directors. Kelowna Laser Vision uses the VISX S-4 IR laser, widely recognized as the most advanced level of laser technology available worldwide. Both Dr. Casey and one of the clinic's eye surgeons, Dr. Jeffrey Chambers, had PRK procedures performed at Kelowna Laser Vision over a year ago. The outcomes were fantastic, both can see better than 20/20. "It is truly incredible how much this procedure can change your life for the better, even just by reducing the hassle of glasses and contacts," said Dr. Chambers.

The Future Is Here

Many people have been waiting for laser vision correction to "improve". Results for correction of nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism have been very good for many years. Results are now even better thanks to development of the Advanced CustomVue Wavefront Guided procedure. The potential to have greater clarity of vision and better quality of night vision has taken a giant leap forward. Many patients now tell us they see detail that they never saw before with glasses or contacts.

New Technology Better Than Glasses or Contact Lenses?

The current gold standard of treatment in the refractive industry is wavefront guided surgery. This exciting improvement in technology allows physicians to customize the treatment according to the unique characteristics of each patient's eye, unlike traditional methods which base the treatment on prescription information similar to that used for glasses and contacts. The Kelowna Laser Vision medical team believe that all patients deserve the best treatment that technology has to offer and have adopted wavefront guided surgery as their standard. Over 95% of their patients receive custom wavefront guided treatments. The clinical studies show that the Advanced CustomVue Wavefront Guided procedure can potentially produce better vision than is possible with glasses or contact lenses. According to the 2006 Annual Refractive Surgeon Survey, twice as many surgeons rated the Advanced CustomVue wavefront guided procedure with the VISX laser as the most effective advanced laser treatment technique when compared to advanced treatments using other lasers.

Diagnostic Consultation – Are You a Candidate?

Consultations at Kelowna Laser Vision are complimentary and include:

- A complete eye examination with a licensed Doctor of Optometry
- Corneal topography and analysis with the Orbscan II
- VISX Wavefront aberrometry to measure and analyze the optical imperfections of your eyes

There is no pain associated with any of these tests. On completion of the consultation the Optometrist will tell you what procedures you are a candidate for. You will then meet with a patient educator to answer any questions and discuss details such as: pre-op requirements, downtime, follow-up care, costs, financing and potential dates available if you would like to book the procedure.

Procedures available:

There are two main types of laser vision correction: lasik and PRK. Both are performed using the same laser to reshape the cornea and both have essentially the same end result in vision. The main difference between the two is the way that we reach the layer of the cornea that must be reshaped. The reshaping cannot be done on the outermost layer (the epithelium) as this layer regenerates and fills back in over time. The reshaping must be done on the second layer of the cornea, the thickest layer, called the stroma. The clinician can arrive at this layer in 2 ways:

LASIK: A thin flap is created and gently folded back by the surgeon to expose the majority of the stroma, which is then reshaped with the laser to change a person's prescription. After surgery, the flap is then laid back into place. Because most of the surface layer of cornea is replaced in its original position, very little surface area needs to "fill in" and recovery is rapid. Most people see well the day after surgery.

PRK: The second layer of the cornea (stroma) is exposed for laser treatment by removing the first layer (epithelium) over the area to be treated. Laser treatment is then applied to the surface of the second layer to reshape the cornea and change a person's prescription. A thin soft bandage contact lens covers the cornea for approximately four days as the epithelium regenerates. After the contact lens is removed, patients notice a day by day improvement in vision, usually reaching driving levels of vision within a few days.

With both lasik and PRK the laser treatment usually takes 10 to 60 seconds, any fine eye movements are tracked with a sophisticated tracking system and there is no sensation of pain.

Monovision: Candidates for monovision are usually over 40 years of age as this is when the focusing power of the eye begins to decrease. The loss of flexibility of the lens with age is called presbyopia and often leads to the need for reading glasses. Although monovision does not stop presbyopia, it is one way to improve near vision without glasses. Monovision is an option that appropriate candidates may choose when having either PRK or LASIK. A patient's dominant eye is treated with the laser for distance vision. The other non-dominant eye is treated to have a closer focal distance. The person can then see both distance and near vision when both eyes are used.

Although not technically a laser surgery, refractive lens exchange surgery (RLE) changes vision by replacing the natural lens in the middle of the eye with an implant lens. The implant lens has a power that incorporates the prescription previously worn as glasses. RLE may sometimes be followed by PRK to give the best possible clarity of vision. This may be the best option for people with early cataracts, high prescriptions, or corneas that are not thick enough for laser surgery alone.

Financing

The best news of all is the affordability of having laser vision correction, especially when compared with many other elective surgical procedures. Kelowna Laser Vision offers a six month interest free financing package with payments as low as \$89 per month oac. There is no better time than now to find out if you are a candidate.

Things you NEED to know

- One Laser vision correction can significantly change lives affecting everything from sports participation to career choices to simply seeing the alarm clock in the night.
- Two Laser correction treats nearsightedness, far sightedness and astigmatism. Anyone over the age of 18 could be a candidate.
- Three Safety for these treatments is unprecedented. Worldwide, over one million people a year have laser vision correction procedures performed.
- Four Wavefront guided technology offers the potential for greater clarity of vision and higher quality night vision than is possible with conventional laser treatments, glasses or contact lenses.
- Five Laser correction is affordable with financing available for as low as \$89 a month oac

"Kelowna Laser Vision has been one of Western Canada's most leading edge and successful laser eye clinics since 1994"

- Dr. Joel Casey, Optometrist