

## Doctor Silk- is LASIK Safe?

This is a question I am often asked by potential LASIK patients. I tell my patients that LASIK surgery is very safe. Each year millions of people safely undergo the surgery and that there is a very low surgical complication rate (between 1-5% according to the Food and Drug Administration). ***I also tell them the key to a great outcome is to follow our 3 simple steps for LASIK success:***

1) Make sure you are a good candidate for surgery by being screened appropriately. This is essential and the single most important step as many of the potential side effects of vision correction can be avoided by simply being screened carefully.

Some LASIK centers will have doctors other than the surgeon do a portion or all of the screening. We don't recommend this, as it is important that your surgeon see you and be involved in your screening ideally from the first visit.

2) Choosing the right surgeon. Certainly experiences is important, but also choose a surgeon that you feel comfortable with and takes the time to answer your questions clearly. Remember if you do have any issues after your surgery you want to be sure that the surgeon and their staff will be there for you when you need them the most.

3) Invest in the best technology available. Using the latest lasers available significantly increases the safety profile of LASIK. New lasers are available that can create the Lasik flap. These are called femtosecond lasers that are ultra fast lasers. How fast? Pulses are emitted at one millionth of a billionth of a second. At this speed the LASIK flap is created within a few seconds.

Also I recommend custom or wavefront guided LASIK. Every individual has a unique pattern to their vision just as they have a unique fingerprint. The wavefront image helps create a treatment pattern that is specific for each patient to help them achieve their best potential vision.

Each year 1 million patients in the US undergo LASIK surgery many without any complications and the majority achieving 20/20 vision or better. Although rare there are potential side effects to LASIK. However by following our 3 simple steps for LASIK success we are confident that you will join the many millions of people who enjoy the freedom from contacts and glasses and have the vision they always dreamed about.