

## WHAT TO EXPECT DURING LASEK SURGERY

1. Numbing, anesthetic drops will be instilled prior to surgery.
2. You will be seated on a reclining chair and then positioned under the laser. The eye which will not undergo surgery first will be occluded by an eye-shield.
3. Your eyelids will be draped and a device which will keep your eyelids open will be placed between your lids. You may feel some pressure on your lids.
4. You will be directed to look at a blinking amber light. If you lose sight of the fixation light, continue to look in the direction where you last saw the light. Any apparent movement of the blinking amber light is an illusion. **Keep both eyes open; the occluder is covering the other eye.**
5. Your surgeon will then use chemical and mechanical means to peel the surface (epithelial) layer of the cornea, to expose the underlying surface. The flap created in this step is not like the flap that is made during the Lasik procedure.
6. **You will be asked to fixate on the blinking amber light. It may be a bit dim and blurry, and may appear orange. It cannot be focused, so don't try to look intently at it. Instead, look THROUGH the center of the blinking blur with a relaxed gaze, off into the distance. Even if you lose sight of the blinking light, don't look around for it; just keep looking in the direction where you last saw the light. The light never actually moves or stops blinking.** The laser will then be activated to ablate (remove) the necessary amount of corneal tissue to correct your prescription. You will hear a snapping sound, the intensity of which will fade as the ablation nears completion. It is important that you maintain fixation during the initial laser treatment. Do not be anxious; the surgeon can stop the laser at any time and restart from where he left off.
7. Your surgeon will then “unroll” and smooth out the epithelial flap created in step #5, to protect the newly lasered corneal surface.
8. Drops will be instilled. A bandage soft contact lens will be inserted into the eye to provide a protective barrier which will also make the eye more comfortable. You do not have to worry about removing the lens; your doctor will do so, once the surface layer of the cornea has fully regenerated. The drapes and lid device will be removed. You will be instructed to keep both eyes open and to avoid blinking during this step.

Don't worry, you are not expected to memorize these steps. You will be talked through the entire procedure.