

PRK

Wavefront Guided iDesign Photorefractive Keratectomy

What is PRK?

PRK (photorefractive keratectomy) is the same laser procedure as LASIK. Like LASIK it involves the use of the cool energy of an Excimer laser to re-shape the cornea to correct nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. It differs from LASIK in that it is performed on the surface of the cornea instead of creating a corneal flap. For patients with thin, steep or irregularly shaped corneas, PRK is often the best and safest High Definition Vision™ solution for them.

Why was I recommended PRK today?

Although there are many reasons why a patient may not qualify as a good candidate for LASIK surgery, the most common ones include having a thin cornea, structural abnormalities of the eye or pre-existing problems present on the cornea. If PRK has been recommended to you as your best High Definition Vision™ solution, it is because our doctors, through their assessment of your eyes, have determined that this is the best option for you to achieve your Personal Best Vision. PRK has been performed for almost two decades now with outstanding results.

Preparing for Your PRK procedure

All patients begin with a complete surgical evaluation that involves a comprehensive eye examination, corneal topography and an iDesign measurement described below. Once it has been determined that you are a good candidate for PRK and you have decided to proceed, the next step is to choose a date.

If you are a contact lens wearer, you must discontinue wearing your contact lenses for the appropriate time prior to the date of your procedure.

Soft Lenses	1-2 weeks
Soft Toric Lenses	2 weeks
Gas Permeable	3-4 weeks
Hard Lenses	8 weeks

What is iDesign Technology?

iDesign technology is a diagnostic and treatment approach that lets us take a precise measurement of your eyes—like a “fingerprint” of your vision—and then provide you with truly personalized vision correction.

How does iDesign Technology work?

iDesign technology uses a high definition sensor capturing over 1,200 data points from your eyes and is 25 times more accurate than standard measurements used for glasses or contact lenses. iDesign creates a blueprint of your eyes, precisely mapping and analyzing each eye’s imperfections. In the diagnostic phase, this wavefront map is used to ensure your PRK procedure addresses your unique vision imperfections mapping the entire optical path of your eye.

In the treatment phase, the doctor uses information from the iDesign wavefront map to perform a personalized vision correction using the Excimer laser.

What makes the iDesign System unique?

No other wavefront-guided mapping tool measures vision imperfections like iDesign technology. Better diagnoses gained through precise mapping, measuring and analyses means a truly individualized treatment plan and your best possible results.

The iDesign System works with the AMO VISX Excimer laser. This laser includes two exclusive features: Variable Spot Scanning and 3D ActiveTrak technologies, giving your surgeon more options to further personalize your treatment.

What is 3D ActiveTrak™?

The unique 3D ActiveTrak element means that you no longer have to hold your eye perfectly still, which is a challenge for many patients. Instead, it automatically and instantaneously tracks the minute movements of your eye during the laser treatment.

The Day of Your PRK procedure

On the day of your procedure, you will be at Herzig Eye Institute for 1½ hours. Wear comfortable clothing and be sure to arrange to have someone drive you home after your procedure as your vision will be blurry. When you arrive for your PRK procedure, you will be asked to review and sign a consent form. Measurements (corneal topography, iDesign) will be repeated.

Before the surgeon is able to use the Excimer laser to treat your eyes, the cornea must be prepared. PRK involves gently removing a thin layer of surface cells (epithelium) on the central portion of the cornea. Once these cells have been removed, the surgeon can then proceed with the customized laser treatment to reshape the front surface (cornea) of your eye.

After the Procedure

At the conclusion of the procedure the surgeon will place a soft bandage contact lens on your eye to protect it and promote healing of the protective surface layer. This layer will regenerate quickly; the lens must remain on the eye day and night until removed by the doctor within 3-5 days. Eye discomfort, irritation and blurred vision may be present until the bandage contact lens is removed and is a normal part of the healing process. Drops and medication will be provided to minimize any discomfort. Regular post-operative appointments are required after the procedure and will vary based on the rate of recovery. Antibiotic, anti-inflammatory and lubricating drops will be provided to help achieve ideal healing.

Post-Operative Examinations

You will be seen at the following post-operative times: 1 day, 1 week and 1 month after your surgery. At the discretion of your doctor, additional post-operative appointments may be required. It is very important that you keep these appointments either at the Herzig Eye Institute or with your co-managing doctor.

Post-Operative Restrictions

Please refrain from swimming, gardening and hot tubs for 2 weeks after your surgery.

Outcome & Results

Although PRK is slightly more inconvenient with respect to the rapidity of visual recovery, the results are identical to LASIK. Most patients are able to return to work and driving about 1 week after treatment. Temporary side effects related to healing after the procedure may include light sensitivity, halos, glare and dry eyes. Typically these side effects will resolve within 4-6 weeks and complete visual stabilization can take 3-6 months.

Lifetime Commitment

Your original PRK procedure is backed by the Herzig Eye Institute Lifetime Commitment. If an additional procedure is deemed medically necessary, it will be performed at no additional cost. You must return for the required number of post-op exams and maintain regular eye examinations with the ophthalmologist or optometrist managing your care.

The Herzig Eye Institute surgeons and doctors are committed to providing you with your best possible vision. Our pricing structure is as simple and straight-forward as our Lifetime Commitment to you.

For more information check our website at:
www.herzig-eye.com.