

Laser eye surgery:

Simply better vision



Vision Clinic: Expertise from the very beginning

The ability to see well is a basic human need. And a better quality of life is something you have a right to expect as a patient. The Vision Clinic will support you in this as an expert partner. “Our goal is to improve and optimize your vision”.

We see ourselves as part of a team, and you as the patient are the cornerstone of that team. That is why we offer you two things from the very beginning – our time and attention. We want to learn about your individual wishes and needs as well as your doubts and reservations in a personal consultation. Because only then can we use our expert knowledge to your best advantage.

Our **Vision** clinic is staffed with experienced and socially skilled ophthalmologists who guarantee high quality using the latest technology and a very well-trained team – for your welfare.

Because we know that your satisfaction is the best argument in our favor!



Vision Clinic uses recent and effective refractive surgery procedures so that we may offer you the best possible treatment, tailor-made for you – after all, your eyes are unique.

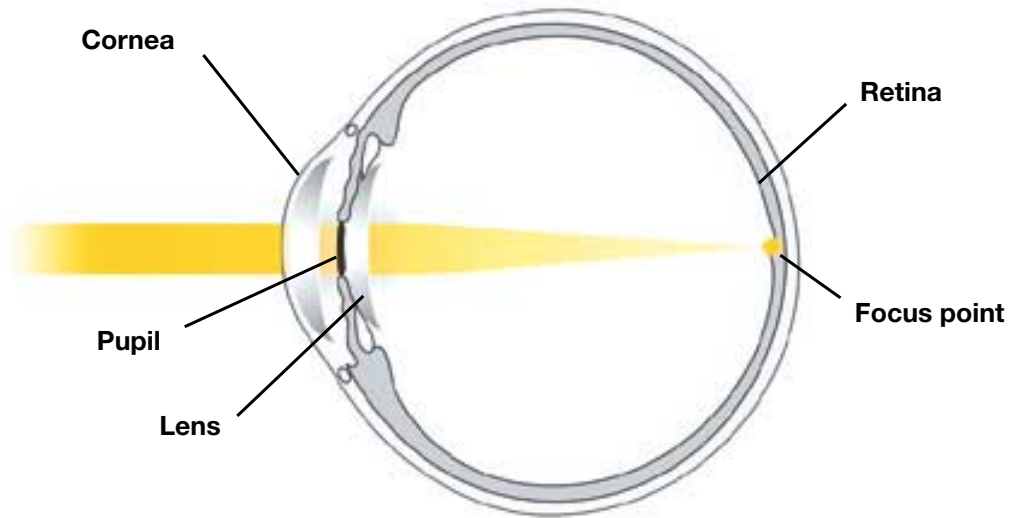
As a result of our close cooperation with WaveLight Laser Technologie AG, an innovative company in the area of refractive surgery, our technical medical equipment is always state-of-the-art and incorporates the latest knowledge and research results.

All of our workflows have been clearly defined as part of our internal quality management system and are constantly monitored by our qualified medical technology engineer.

Intensive training and regular further education for our surgeons and their teams in the field of laser surgery ensure that our medical expertise is and continues to be up-to-date.

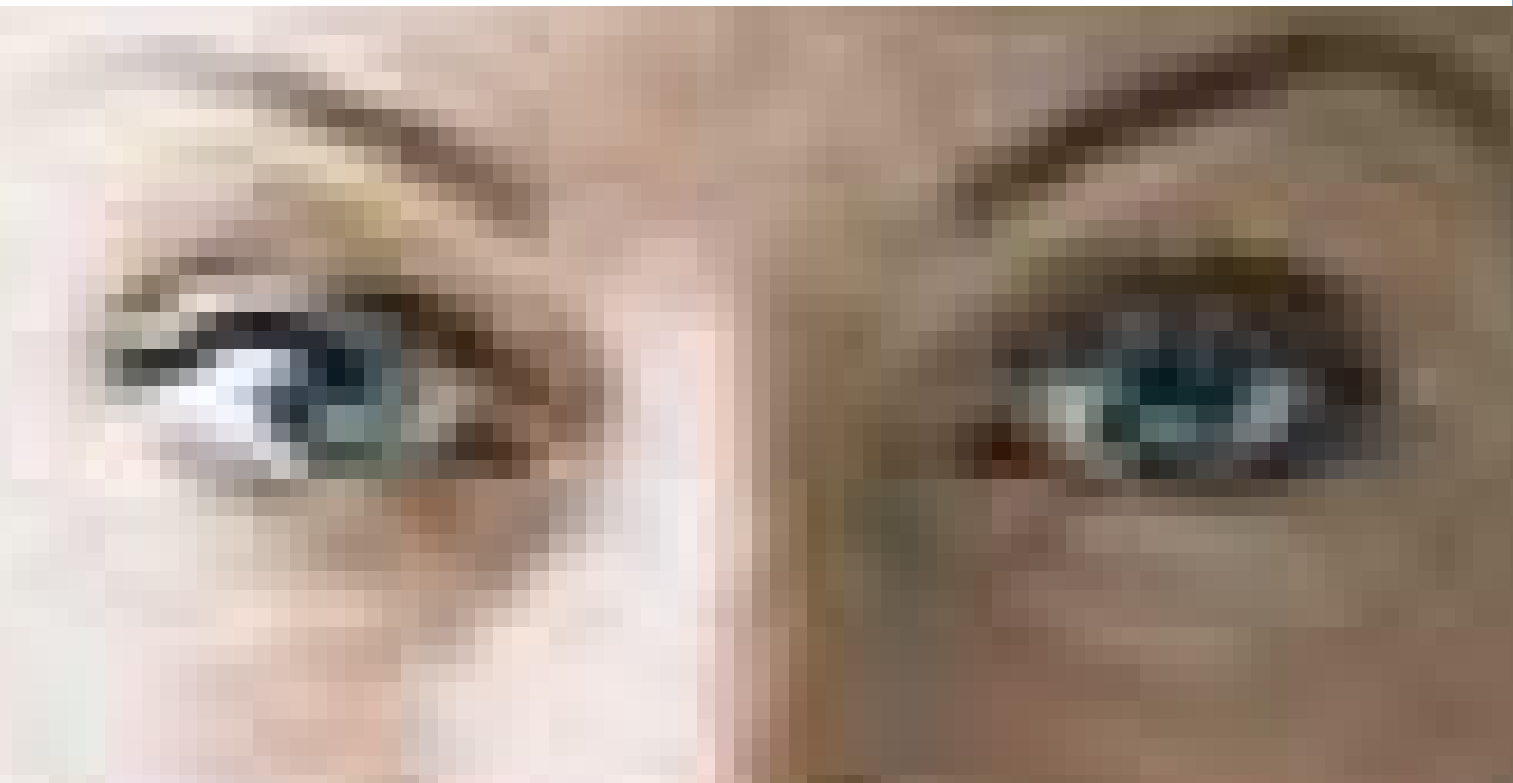
Our goal:
**An eye that's as
perfectly aligned
as possible**





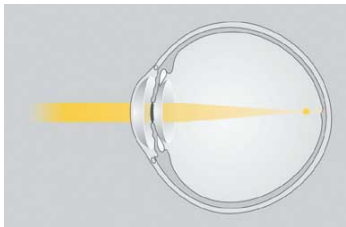
In an eye with normal vision, the cornea, pupil, lens, retina, and the length of the eyeball are all perfectly aligned with one another. The incoming light rays are focused precisely on the retina, and the focused image is sharp. By distorting the lens of the eye, both distant and close images can be perceived.

Vision impairment:
A “structural defect”
of the eye



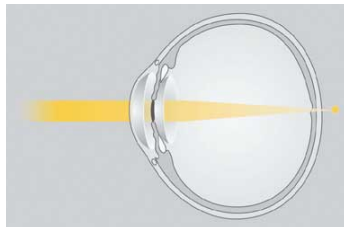
A visually impaired eye is a medically healthy eye that cannot achieve perfect vision due to a structural defect that is either hereditary or has developed over time. There are three kinds of vision impairment:

Nearsightedness (Myopia)



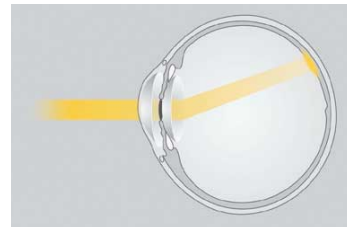
A nearsighted eye has an eyeball that is too long for the eye's focusing system. The incoming light rays are focused before they reach the retina so that distant objects are blurred or out of focus when they reach the retina.

Farsightedness (Hyperopia)



An eyeball that is too short causes the incoming light rays to focus behind the retina. The result is that the images are blurred, especially up close. It is a constant strain to see, which often causes headaches.

Irregular curvature of the cornea (Astigmatism)



Astigmatism is another common refractive error in which the cornea is not uniformly spherical, but rather is warped and curves more in different places. The incoming light rays are refracted differently at the warped locations, which causes them to focus on two points on the retina rather than a single focus point. The image therefore appears distorted and out of focus.

Always made-to-order: Our treatment for your eyes

The LASIK method – a tried and tested procedure

The LASIK method, which has been in use since the early 1990s, was recognized in 1999 as a scientific procedure by the German Ophthalmologic Society (Deutsche Ophthalmologische Gesellschaft or DOG) as well as the Association of German Ophthalmologists (Berufsverband der Augenärzte or BVA).

With LASIK (laser in situ keratomileusis), the procedure is performed on the corneal layer at a depth of approx. 0.1 mm, which is not sensitive to pain. The operation is performed as an outpatient procedure, is virtually pain-free after anesthetic eye drops are administered, and is therefore an extremely comfortable method of treatment for the patients.

With over 10 million patients already treated, this classic form of LASIK surgery has become the most commonly used laser eye surgery procedure in the world, but it only corrects refractive errors.

After an intensive initial consultation and a comprehensive preoperative evaluation using the latest precision diagnostic equipment, your surgeon will meet with you in a personal consultation to decide together on the best treatment method for your eyes.

In order to ensure that your decision is not influenced by financial considerations, all the individual treatment methods cost the same. You can be sure that you will always receive the optimal treatment for your eyes.

Depending on the individual condition of your eyes and the procedure being used, we can treat myopia (up to -10 diopters), astigmatism (up to ± 5 diopters) and hyperopia (up to +3 diopters).

Since your eye is as individual as a fingerprint, Vision Clinic offers several different LASIK procedures:

Wavefront-guided LASIK

Wavefront technology can detect and correct all of the errors in the optical system (i.e., the entire eye). In order to do this, your eye is measured and documented using a wavefront aberrometer, and the treatment is then individually calculated.

Wavefront-optimized LASIK

The newest generation of the ALLEGRETTO laser system, which is the fastest laser currently available on the market*, has a unique*, wavefront-optimized ablation profile allowing optical zones that take the optimal curvature of the cornea into account in the peripheral correction area. This is extremely important for night vision and low-light situations.

Topography-guided LASIK

By topographically scanning the surface of the cornea, doctors can precisely map and correct any unevenness, scars, and elevations that can negatively affect your vision using a topographically-controlled laser.

The LASEK method – a possible alternative

If you are not a suitable candidate for LASIK surgery (for example, because your cornea is too thin), LASEK surgery could be an alternative method. With the LASEK (laser epithelial keratomileusis) method, the surgeon first removes the uppermost cell layer (the epithelium) from the cornea using a solution that softens the tissue. The treatment is then performed on the exposed corneal surface, and the epithelium repositioned over the cornea. Compared with LASIK, patients need to expect a slower and more painful postsurgical healing process.

Dependant upon your eyes' individual characteristics, and the particular operation, we can treat you with the following diopter values: shortsighted up to -10 diopter, astigmatism up to ± 5 diopter, and longsighted up to +3 diopter.

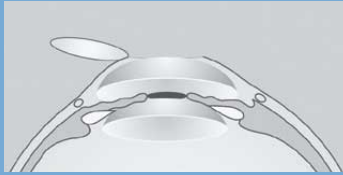
LASIK surgery: What happens – step by step

Before surgery

First, your eye undergoes a final, detailed diagnostic evaluation. After the diagnostic evaluation, you will be prepared for outpatient surgery in a sterile room.

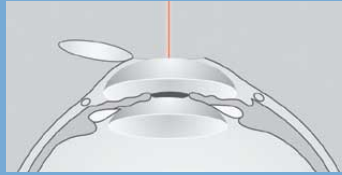
Surgery preparation

Anesthetic eye drops will be placed in the eye in question, a sterile drape will be applied around your eye, and a small device will be used to keep your eyelid open, which may cause you slight discomfort. The operation itself is conducted in three steps.



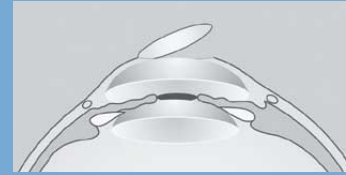
Fixation and incision

First, the surgeon creates a flap in the upper layer of the cornea using a microkeratome (a microsurgical blade). Your eye will be held in place using an integrated suction ring. You will feel mild pressure on your eye, and your vision will go dark for a short period of time.



Opening and ablation with the lasers

After the corneal flap is folded back, the inner corneal tissue, which is insensitive to pain, is exposed. Depending on your visual impairment, the laser beam will ablate the tissue within a few seconds. Your vision will be blurry, but you will generally not feel any pain.



The body's own natural bandage

After surgery, the corneal flap is placed back into position and acts as a natural bandage to protect the treated surface of the cornea. The cornea will have already regained a certain degree of stability after just a short period of time. The retaining device can be removed, and the procedure is finished.

After surgery

You will be able to go home after the surgeon has re-examined the operated eye. Your vision may still be somewhat blurred, and you may feel as if you have a foreign body in your eye for two or three hours. Keep your eyes closed for several hours. Avoid rubbing them, and make sure they do not come in contact with water. You will be able to see the results – in the truest sense of the word – after several hours, and by the next day you will be have virtually normal vision without contacts or glasses.

After your surgery, you will be given all the necessary medications and post-operative instructions as well as an emergency telephone number for your surgeon.

Depending on your occupation or working environment, you will normally be able to return to work, and your normal activities, within a day or two of your surgery. You should be careful and avoid strenuous physical activity and contact sports for one to two weeks. Check-ups will be required the day after the procedure and then one week, and one month later to monitor the success of the treatment. In your best interest as a patient, as well as to record your data as part of our quality management, we also recommend follow-up appointments three, six and twelve months after your surgical procedure.

Laser eye surgery: Prospects and Risks

We minimize the risks by: critically selecting patients, determining the best possible method of treatment for them, and complying with international guidelines and quality standards. Since the potential risks are different for each person depending on the condition of your eyes and the overall state of your health, you will receive a comprehensive explanation of all the risks from our surgeons during your personal consultation.

If you choose a modern clinic with experienced surgeons and take the follow-up examinations and post-operative instructions seriously, you will have done everything you can as a patient to achieve the best possible result.

As with any surgical procedure, infections are always a possibility, but because we have very strict air purification criteria they are very rare. You should follow the comprehensive follow-up examination schedule and carefully take the medication given to you as a prophylaxis.

We cannot completely rule out the chance that you may experience an unsatisfactory result, but thanks to our modern laser technology with its eye tracker guidance system, we rarely observe this in our patients. If an overcorrection, undercorrection, or irregular ablation has occurred, the surgeons prefer to wait up to three months to observe how your vision develops. If at that point you still feel the result deviates too much from your desired optimum vision, the surgeons will perform another procedure to correct the residual error.



In summary: we here at **Vision Clinic** do everything we can, before treatment, to minimize the risk of serious complications using reputable and qualified measures such as a comprehensive preoperative evaluation, a critical appraisal of the patient, and procedure selection that is optimized to fit the needs of the individual. Together with the experience of our surgeons and the use of modern technology, this results in the following promise: we will do everything humanly possible to ensure that the theoretical risks remain theoretical!

What might make me ineligible for laser eye surgery?

Unfortunately not every vision impairment that is a correctable refractive error can actually be treated. The comprehensive preoperative evaluation will offer us detailed information about your suitability.

One of the most common exclusion criteria is a cornea that is too thin. You may also have to forget about laser eye surgery (temporarily or entirely) if your eye is still developing and maturing, if your eye glasses or contact lens prescription has recently changed, or if the doctors find pre-existing damage during the preoperative evaluation. In these cases, our surgeon will discuss the best plan of action or alternatives with you during your personal consultation.

Our laser system: fast, precise, safe

The ALLEGRETTO WAVE excimer laser was the first European laser to be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the "safe and effective" treatment of myopia, hyperopia, and astigmatism in the U.S. The authority, known for its high standards, stressed the precision of the clinical results as well as the positive influence on night vision and contrast as being particularly remarkable.

Speed

Since the ALLEGRETTO WAVE is currently the fastest laser in the world*, our surgeons can reduce the treatment time to a minimum and ensure uniform ablation.

The advantage to you: The treatment time of just 2.5 seconds per diopter prevents dehydration of the cornea surface and makes your treatment even simpler and more comfortable.

Precision

Due to the very small spot size, the ALLEGRETTO WAVE ensures the utmost precision during tissue ablation.

The advantage to you: up to 20% less tissue will be removed from your eye thanks to the optimized ablation profile of the ALLEGRETTO WAVE.

*As of: November 2004

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Still need more information?

www.visionclinic.be

You will find more information on our Web site at www.visionclinic.be

If you would like to contact us beforehand, you can find all of the contact information for Vision clinic on the enclosed information sheet.

We look forward to seeing you



Safety

The ALLEGRETTO WAVE has a very high safety standard thanks to its unique eye tracking technology. This “built-in intelligence” can track even the fastest eye movements and adapt the position of the laser beam to ensure accurate delivery of the laser beam to the desired location of the cornea based on the current position of the eye. The position of the eye is determined, the data is transmitted to the laser, and the laser is repositioned within a thousandth of a second. If the eye moves too quickly or outside a predefined tolerance, the laser will automatically stop until the eye is once again determined to be in the target area.

The advantage to you: the eye tracker guarantees precise ablation of your eye even if you move your eye during treatment.

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