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A question I'm commonly asked is "Am I a candidate for LASIK?" or "What do you think of refractive surgery?" The short answer to the first question is: if you are nearsighted, or have a low farsighted prescription, are realistic about the potential need for reading glasses (if you are 40+ years old) after the surgery, and have a stable prescription you are probably a candidate. And to answer the second question, I am very enthusiastic about refractive surgery. Along with glasses and contact lenses, it is a viable, proven method of visual correction.

However, refractive surgery is too extensive a topic to be covered with a short explanation. If you are considering having the surgery, or would simply like more information about the topic, please consider making an appointment for a specific "Refractive Surgery Evaluation"

In order to schedule a RSE, you must first have a "routine" eye examination. Typically the "routine" examination can be billed to your insurance. The RSE will encompass additional tests and discussion, typically not covered by insurance. The RSE typically lasts about 45 minutes and the fee is \$100 (but it can be less, depending on the specific tests done). A "routine" eye examination and a RSE can be scheduled separately, or back to back.

**Included in a RSE is a discussion of:**

Limitations by current prescription parameters, age, Rx stability, central corneal thickness

Limitations imposed by monocular status

Medical contraindications/concerns

Cost

Pre and Post Op Expectations/Care, including expected results and possible complications

Concerns in regards to pre existing lid disease, acne rosacea, and other conditions

These tests are included in the RSE:

Cycloplegic refraction, dilated fundus examination, corneal thickness measurement, pupil size evaluation, corneal curvature evaluation, corneal topography and wavefront analysis. We'll discuss how each affects your suitability for the procedure. You'll also watch a short video on the procedure.

We'll also discuss the differences between the many regional surgery centers, the Catholic Medical Center, the Bedford Ontrack Center, Laservue in Montreal, ClearAdvantage near Portsmouth, and the TLC Laser Center in Waltham, MA.

We'll discuss "wavefront technology" and different types of laser systems, ie LadarWave with LadarVision, Visx Wavescan with Visx Star S 4, the Zyoptix system, and mechanical vs.femtosecond flap creation

Finally, we'll discuss all your options for correcting your vision, including glasses, contact lenses, PRK, LASIK, LASEK, CRT, Intacs, and CK.

We may use contact lenses to simulate the type of vision you can expect to have, after laser surgery – including monovision, slight undercorrection, "perfect vision", etc.

If you choose to have refractive surgery, we will forward all relevant clinical information to the surgeon of your choice. Also, provided you and the surgeon agree to it, we are able to provide for a significant portion of your postoperative follow up care.

