

LASIK Compared With SMILE and PRK in New Braunfels



LASIK, PRK, SMILE, and the custom-guided versions of each all use a laser to reshape the cornea and correct vision, and any of them can free a suitable patient from glasses. The differences lie in how the surgeon reaches the tissue that gets reshaped, and those differences change the recovery, the candidacy requirements, the durability under impact, and which patient each procedure suits best. Understanding how they line up makes the eventual recommendation easier to follow. Here is how LASIK compares with SMILE and with PRK for patients weighing the options at the Parkhurst NuVision office in New Braunfels.

How Is LASIK Different From SMILE?

LASIK and SMILE both reshape the cornea from below its surface, but they get there in different ways. LASIK creates a hinged flap in the outer cornea, folds it back, reshapes the tissue beneath it with a second laser, and then lays the flap back down to heal. SMILE does not create a flap at all. Instead, a single femtosecond laser forms a thin, lens-shaped disc of tissue, called a lenticule, entirely within the cornea, and the surgeon removes

it through a small opening at the edge. Because SMILE works through a much smaller incision, it disturbs fewer of the corneal nerves and may cause less dry eye for some patients, while leaving the cornea slightly stronger overall. LASIK, in exchange, treats a wider range of prescriptions, including farsightedness, which SMILE currently does not, and it has a longer track record and a simpler path to an enhancement if one is ever needed.

How Does PRK Compare With Both?

PRK works on the surface of the cornea rather than underneath it. The surgeon removes the thin outer layer of cells, reshapes the exposed surface with the same excimer laser used in LASIK, and then lets the outer layer regrow over the following several days under a protective contact lens. There is no flap and no lenticule. That makes PRK a strong fit for corneas that are healthy but on the thin side, and for people whose job or sport carries a real risk of a blow to the eye, since there is no flap that a hard impact could ever displace. The cost of that durability is a slower and less comfortable early recovery, with blurred vision and irritation for several days while the surface heals, followed by vision that sharpens gradually over weeks rather than by the next morning.

Which Procedure Has the Fastest Recovery?

LASIK has the fastest visual recovery of the group. Most LASIK patients see well the next day and return to a desk job within a day or two. SMILE recovery runs close to LASIK, though a portion of patients take a few extra days to reach their sharpest vision as the small incision settles. PRK is the slowest by a clear margin, with several days of hazy vision and surface discomfort while the outer layer of cells grows back, followed by weeks of steady improvement toward the final result. If a quick turnaround is a priority for you and your eyes happen to qualify for more than one of these, that difference in recovery speed is often what makes the decision.

How Do You Choose Between Them?

You choose based on your corneal thickness, your prescription, whether you have dry eye, and what your daily life demands of your eyes. A patient with a healthy, average-thickness cornea and a moderate prescription can usually pick any of the three, and recovery speed becomes the deciding factor. A thinner cornea points toward PRK or SMILE, which remove or disturb less tissue. A history of dry eye may favor SMILE or PRK over LASIK. A job or sport with a high eye-injury risk leans toward PRK. Farsightedness currently points to LASIK. The corneal map from your evaluation, combined with a straightforward conversation about how you spend your days, narrows a menu of options down to one or two fairly quickly.

Choosing Among Laser Procedures at Parkhurst NuVision

Parkhurst NuVision performs LASIK, PRK, SMILE, and their custom-guided versions at its New Braunfels practice, which means the recommendation can follow your eyes instead of the one procedure a given provider happens to offer. The evaluation maps your corneas and reviews your prescription and your tear film, and then the surgeon explains which of the procedures fit your case and how they differ in recovery and durability for you specifically. Founder Dr. Gregory Parkhurst has built his career on matching patients to the right refractive procedure. Patients often come in set on one option, usually LASIK because it is the one they have heard of, and leave understanding why another choice suits their eyes better.

Compare the Options for Your Eyes

The choice among the laser procedures is much easier to make once you can see your own corneal measurements laid out. The Parkhurst NuVision New Braunfels office can evaluate your eyes for all of the laser procedures and explain the trade-offs in plain terms rather than sales terms. Contact the office to schedule your consultation, and bring your current prescription and any past eye records so the comparison rests on your actual numbers.

Company Description

Our Mission at Parkhurst NuVision is the relentless pursuit of best natural vision, enabling people to enjoy life and connect with one another, uninhibited from the barriers created by poor vision and prosthetic eyewear.

Contact Details

Parkhurst NuVision LASIK Eye Surgery - New Braunfels Office

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(830) 999-2020

Website: <https://sanantonio-lasik.com/contact/new-braunfels-office/>

Google Site: <https://sites.google.com/view/parkhurstnuvision/lasik-surgeon-new-braunfels>

Google Folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1gyALduv2FBuki8Ydk-2gZydcG8BGek7K?usp=drive_link

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