

LASIK vs PRK What's the Difference and Which One Is Right for You



If you're considering laser vision correction, you've probably heard of LASIK. But there's another powerful option that's been around even longer: PRK (Photorefractive Keratectomy).

At Vance Thompson Vision in Northern Colorado, we offer both LASIK and PRK because we believe in recommending what's best for your eyes, not just what's most popular. This guide breaks down the key differences between LASIK and PRK—including how they work, recovery timelines, and who makes a better candidate for each.

What Is LASIK?

LASIK (Laser-Assisted In Situ Keratomileusis) reshapes the cornea using a laser to correct vision problems like nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism. LASIK involves creating a thin flap in the cornea, reshaping the tissue underneath, and then repositioning the flap.

Benefits of LASIK:

- Fast visual recovery—often within 24 hours
- Little to no discomfort after surgery
- High precision and long-lasting results
- Quick procedure (about 10–15 minutes per eye)

What Is PRK?

PRK (Photorefractive Keratectomy) was actually the original form of laser vision correction and is still widely used today. Instead of creating a flap, the top layer of the cornea (the epithelium) is gently removed before the underlying cornea is reshaped with a laser.

Benefits of PRK:

- Ideal for patients with thin or irregular corneas
- No flap, so there's no risk of flap-related complications
- Excellent long-term vision outcomes
- Preferred for certain active lifestyles or high-risk professions (e.g., military, athletes)

LASIK vs PRK: Key Differences

Feature	LASIK	PRK
Corneal Flap	Yes	No
Ideal For	Normal corneal thickness	Thin/irregular corneas
Discomfort Level	Minimal	Moderate (for 2–3 days)
Visual Recovery	1–2 days	5–7 days
Activity Restrictions	Shorter	Slightly longer
Risk of Flap Issues	Rare but possible	None
Long-Term Vision Results	Excellent	Excellent

Who Is a Better Candidate for PRK?

At Vance Thompson Vision Northern Colorado, we may recommend PRK instead of LASIK if you:

- Have thin corneas or borderline thickness
- Have dry eye symptoms that could be worsened by LASIK
- Are in a profession or sport with a risk of eye trauma
- Previously had LASIK and need enhancement
- Want to avoid the rare risks associated with a corneal flap

What's the PRK Recovery Process Like?

While PRK has a longer healing period, it's still very manageable:

- Days 1–3: Mild to moderate discomfort, sensitivity to light, and blurry vision. You'll wear a special bandage contact lens for comfort.
- Day 4–7: The epithelium heals and vision begins to improve.
- Week 2 and beyond: Continued visual improvement and reduced need for drops.
- 1 month+: Vision stabilizes; long-term outcomes are excellent.

Our Northern Colorado team supports you every step of the way with thorough follow-ups and personal care.

Is PRK Safer Than LASIK?

Both LASIK and PRK are extremely safe when performed by an experienced surgeon using advanced technology—like those at Vance Thompson Vision. The main difference lies in individual eye anatomy and lifestyle. PRK avoids flap-related risks but requires more healing time. LASIK offers rapid results with very low risk for qualified candidates.

The bottom line: the “safer” procedure is the one that’s right for your unique eyes.

Why Choose Vance Thompson Vision for LASIK or PRK in Northern Colorado?

Our expert team provides:

- Board-certified surgeons with deep experience in both LASIK and PRK
- Advanced diagnostics to determine your safest and most effective option
- Unbiased recommendations—we never push a one-size-fits-all solution
- Clear communication so you understand every step of your vision correction journey
- Top-rated care right here in Northern Colorado

Real Patient Story

“I wasn’t a LASIK candidate because of my thin corneas, but PRK was the perfect solution. The recovery was slower, but now I see 20/20—and I’m so grateful for the team at Vance Thompson Vision.” – Daniel R., Northern Colorado

Still Deciding Between LASIK and PRK?

We’re here to help. Schedule a free consultation with Vance Thompson Vision in Northern Colorado, and let our experts guide you to the right choice for your eyes, lifestyle, and long-term vision goals.

Company Description

Vance Thompson Vision takes pride in being world leaders in quality vision correction and setting global standards for excellent patient care in ophthalmology. We specialize in many forms of vision surgery and treatment with a specific focus on LASIK, refractive cataract surgery, glaucoma, cornea care, and oculoplastics.

Contact Details

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Google Site: <https://sites.google.com/view/vancethompsonvision/location/lasik-surgeon-northern-colorado/>

Google Folder: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LsAp2eoBxR5lKj6s0j5xtr_6ZlHRWW4K?usp=drive_open

Recommended Resources

<https://mgyb.co/s/UagpT>
<https://mgyb.co/s/Dwuxm>
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