

Who Is a Good Candidate for ASA PRK?



Not every patient seeking laser vision correction is a good candidate for LASIK. That is not a dead end. For a significant portion of patients, ASA PRK in Washington, D.C. is not just an alternative to LASIK; it is the better procedure. The question of candidacy comes down to corneal anatomy, lifestyle factors, and individual ocular health. Here is a clear breakdown of who is well-suited for ASA PRK and why.

The Baseline Candidacy Requirements

Ideal ASA PRK candidates are adults 18 years or older with a stable refractive prescription, meaning their glasses or contact lens prescription has not changed significantly in the past one to two years. Candidates should be free of active corneal disease, autoimmune conditions that affect wound healing, and uncontrolled systemic health issues.

A comprehensive pre-operative evaluation measures corneal thickness and topography, pupil size, refractive error, and tear film quality to confirm suitability. Patients who meet these baseline criteria and have no contraindications are generally good candidates for ASA PRK.

Patients With Thin Corneas

Thin corneas are one of the most common reasons a patient is steered toward ASA PRK rather than LASIK. LASIK requires creating a corneal flap approximately 90 to 120 microns thick before the laser even begins reshaping tissue.

If a patient's corneas are not thick enough to safely accommodate both the flap and the treatment, LASIK becomes a risk. ASA PRK bypasses this limitation entirely. There is no flap, so the full stromal bed is available for treatment. Many patients told they are "not a LASIK candidate" because of corneal thickness are excellent ASA PRK candidates.

Patients With Dry Eye Tendencies

Dry eye symptoms are a known side effect of LASIK, caused in part by the severing of corneal nerves during flap creation. Patients who already experience dry eye prior to surgery are at elevated risk of worsened symptoms post-LASIK. ASA PRK does not create a flap, and while it also affects corneal nerves, the nerve disruption pattern is different. For many patients, dry eye outcomes after ASA PRK are more favorable. Pre-operative tear film testing is a standard part of the Brusco Vision evaluation process, and patients with borderline dry eye are often better served by a surface ablation approach.

Military Members, Athletes, and High-Contact Professionals

Active-duty military personnel, law enforcement officers, martial artists, contact sport athletes, and others at risk of facial or ocular trauma are strong ASA PRK candidates based on lifestyle alone. The LASIK flap never fully integrates with surrounding tissue and can be disrupted years after surgery by a direct blow to the eye.

Because ASA PRK creates no flap, the cornea heals as a single continuous structure with nothing to dislodge. The U.S. military has specifically approved ASA PRK for aviators and special operations personnel precisely because of this structural advantage.

Patients With Irregular Corneal Topography

Corneal topography maps the curvature and shape of the corneal surface in fine detail. Some patients have corneas that are too irregular to safely support LASIK, due to subtle asymmetry, early forme fruste keratoconus, or other variations.

For carefully selected patients with mild irregularity, ASA PRK using wavefront-guided or topography-guided laser ablation can actually improve corneal regularity while correcting refractive error. This makes surface ablation a nuanced tool in the hands of an experienced surgeon. Brusco Vision in Washington, D.C. evaluates each patient's topography map as part of every ASA PRK consultation.

The best way to confirm candidacy is a comprehensive evaluation that looks at your corneas, your vision, and your lifestyle together. Schedule a consultation with Brusco Vision in Washington, D.C. to find out whether ASA PRK is the right procedure for your eyes.

Company Description

Brusco Vision is a boutique-style laser vision correction and refractive surgical facility in the Washington DC area dedicated to one simple goal: helping you see better to live better.

Contact Details

Brusco Vision

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Google Site: <https://sites.google.com/view/bruscovision/asa-prk-dc>

Google Folder: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1emzBJdXDnnCJY25J1IBIN1tWk9B2p9XR?usp=sharing>

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