

CRITICAL STEPS FOR LASIK SUCCESS

SOUND ADVICE FROM ROBERT R. JONES, M.D.

You've finally decided to take the plunge and have laser vision correction. Robert R. Jones, M.D. of Pocatello, Idaho, wants you to have a superior visual result. "This is serious surgery," says the board-certified, Mayo Clinic-trained ophthalmologist. "There are several critical steps for success, and the surgeon should be involved throughout the entire process."

"I evaluate each prospective patient thoroughly to determine whether he or she is a good candidate for LASIK," Dr. Jones says. The refractive error (degree of



nearsightedness and astigmatism) must be determined with precision because these measurements will be used to program the laser. Dr. Jones is committed to doing them himself. "I like to get at least two sets of measurements on different days to verify their accuracy," he says.

Other key steps include measuring corneal thickness and obtaining a computer-generated map of the cornea. "Patients with very thin or irregular corneas could have problems down the road, and I may elect not to proceed with LASIK. Fortunately, the great majority of people wearing contacts and glasses are good candidates for LASIK and can obtain excellent, crisp vision after surgery."

At the time of the LASIK procedure, the excimer laser and the microkeratome (used to make the corneal flap) must function perfectly. Use of the VISX Star S3 laser system with Active Trak enhances Dr. Jones's ability to achieve excellent results. Full-time engineers and technicians make sure his equipment is properly calibrated and maintained.

Dr. Jones provides his own post-operative care and sometimes ends up managing problems from surgeries done elsewhere. Laurie Rogers felt frustrated with unanswered questions following LASIK at a discount center. "Other than one 'Hello,' I was not allowed to speak to the surgeon. I would recommend that people find a surgeon who does his own measurements and takes the necessary time with his patients, and isn't reluctant to do the aftercare."



ABOUT DR. JONES

After graduating with honors from the University of Washington School of Medicine, Dr. Jones completed an extensive residency in surgery and diseases of the eye at the Mayo Clinic. He has done research and authored publications on corneal and cataract surgery, and has performed LASIK on many physicians and health care professionals as well as professional athletes, family members and office staff members.

In addition to LASIK, his services include cataract surgery, plastic and reconstructive surgery of the eyelids, and medical ophthalmology.

"I have worn glasses for 30 years, but I wanted to wait for a procedure that had a proven track record. I spoke with several other physicians who had the procedure done by Dr. Jones, and they were excited about their outcomes. I was amazed with my vision when I woke up the next morning. I have not seen this clearly since I was a little boy."

— Dr. Curtis Galke
Host of television's "Ask the Doc"



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