

SUPRALASE® is a no flap, all laser eye surgery used to correct vision in people who are nearsighted or astigmatic. It is a patented modified transepithelial ablation laser surface procedure allowing precise control of epithelium removal creating a minimal defect resulting in rapid recovery in as little as 2-3 days. The average treatment depth equals about one third the thickness of a human hair. The treatment takes about 45 seconds. Making SUPRALASE® an excellent option for pilots and patients who put their eyes in harm's way (NAVY SEALS & UFC Fighters).

In every type of Laser Vision Correction the doctor must breakthrough the epithelium to access the treatment zone. IntraLase and LASIK require a flap to be cut with either a microkeratome (blade) or laser. PRK is considered a no flap, surface procedure but requires an abrasive (brush or alcohol) to scrape away the epithelium. Supralase® is also a no flap, surface procedure but uses a laser to remove the epithelium. Whether requiring a flap (LASIK, IntraLase) or not (SUPRALASE®, PRK) they all achieve the same outcome, which is to arriving at the treatment zone within the layers of the cornea. The objective being to reshape stromal layer of the cornea so that light traveling through it is properly focused onto the retina located in the back of the eye. SUPRALASE® is a much less invasive procedure and allows for enhancements if necessary without risk to the patient.

What Are the Advantages of SUPRALASE® Eye Surgery?

SUPRALASE® has many benefits, including:

- ✓ Extremely low risk of complications (as it relates flap complications during the procedure, dislocation, difficult enhancements, ingrowth, ectasia, etc.).
- ✓ Less traumatic on patient (no corneal cutting or suction apparatus)
- ✓ Rapid recovery, surgery on Friday driving to work on Monday.
- ✓ SUPRALASE® patients have good vision within a few days as with LASIK, but with low risk.
- ✓ Dry eyes and thin corneas are SUPRALASE® candidates. This procedure is suitable for patients who have thin corneas or dry eyes.
- ✓ SUPRALASE® is more comfortable and faster healing than PRK.
- ✓ Enhancements are much simpler and safer than with "flap" procedures.
- ✓ Enhancement rate is less than 1% and usually age related at 45 and above. LASIK enhancement rate is 9-12%.
- ✓ Very high customer satisfaction rate.

What Are the Disadvantages of SUPRALASE® Eye Surgery?

- ✓ The healing time for SUPRALASE® is 3 to 4 days compared to LASIK/IntraLase which is 1 to 2 days.
- ✓ During the healing process the discomfort scale would range from (low → high for SUPRALASE®) compared to (low → moderate for LASIK/IntraLase), and (moderate → high for PRK).
- ✓ SUPRALASE® patients wear "bandage contact lens" for about 3 or 4 days after eye surgery as a protective layer between their blinking eyelids and the treated eye surface, which is not necessary after LASIK/IntraLase.
- ✓ Patients generally use topical steroids longer than after LASIK eye surgery.
- ✓ Although side effects are rare they may include:
- ✓ Slight under correction or overcorrection (these may require an enhancement)
- ✓ Corneal healing haze associated with high myopic Rx (less than .01% incidents) (corrected with short use of steroids)

- ✓ Temporary optical aberrations (glare, halos, starburst) – associated with any/all Laser Vision Correction procedures (will self-resolve within 6 months)

How Should I Prepare for SUPRALASE® Eye Surgery?

Before SUPRALASE® eye surgery, you will meet with a patient coordinator who will discuss what to expect during and after the procedure. During this session, your medical history will be evaluated and your eyes will be fully examined. Likely initial tests include measuring corneal thickness, refraction, corneal mapping, and pupil dilation. Once you have gone through the initial evaluation, you will meet the surgeon, who will answer any questions you may have. Afterwards, you can schedule an appointment for the procedure. Do not wear hard contact lenses for at least three weeks before surgery.

On the day of your procedure, eat a light meal before going to the doctor and take all of your prescribed medications. Do not wear any eye makeup, perfume or aftershave. Dress in warm, comfortable clothing.

What Happens During SUPRALASE® Eye Surgery?

SUPRALASE® is performed using a VISX S4 IR Tracking Laser. Do not worry about blinking or any other “accidental movements”. The laser tracks your eye many hundreds of times a second, following it and compensating for movements. There is virtually nothing you could do with your eyes during the treatment to compromise the surgery, or put you at risk.

You will be given anesthetic eye drops, to completely numb the surface of your eye prior to the start of the procedure. Wire eye speculum (eye opener) will be gently placed to prevent blinking. The tracking laser will be aligned with your eye and the surgeon will talk you through each step of the procedure. There’s no pain at all, although at times you may feel a light touch or gentle pressure on your eye, which can be slightly uncomfortable for a matter of seconds. For the most part, all you do is fixate on the blinking light. When ready the laser will begin to click, signifying the treatment has started lasting about 30 to 60 seconds. Immediately after the procedure, you can be driven home by your family member.

What Should I Expect After SUPRALASE® Eye Surgery?

Some patients may experience varying degrees of discomfort in the first 48 hours after SUPRALASE®, but not to worry your doctor will prescribe oral medication for comfort. During your healing period, your doctor will give you prescription eye drops to prevent infection, dryness and inflammation. Do not use any eye drops not approved by your eye doctor.

Healing after SUPRALASE® usually occurs very rapidly. Corneal tissue heals within 36 hours, although visual clarity continues to improve over the next few days. Vision may be blurry and hazy for the first day, but most patients will see vast improvement in vision within a couple days of the treatment. You should be driving a few days following the surgery.

Rest prescribed for 12 hours, being careful not to touch or rub your eyes for 24 hours. Specific follow-up after the surgery varies from one surgeon to another. You will revisit the doctor for an evaluation 24 to 48 hours after SUPRALASE® eye surgery, with follow on care up to 6 months.

Supralase provides in 1 to 2 visits what many people have been waiting for - the ideal combination of visual excellence and consistent safety without the risks and complications inherent in LASIK/IntraLase flap procedures. SUPRALASE® all laser, no flap.

SUPRALASE™ . 2004. SUPRALASE, LLC, Virginia Beach, VA. USA.

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