

WHAT IS INTRALASE?

Lasik is a two step process. The first step is: Dr. Tooma must gain access to your cornea by creating a flap. This can be done by a laser or a blade. IntraLase is the laser that is used to make the flap. Once that step is completed, he will use a laser to perform the actual vision correction portion of your procedure, which is the second step.

Traditional Lasik utilizes a metal blade to make the flap. While the risk of complications in Dr. Tooma's hands is very minimal, all surgery carries some degree of risk. IntraLase is a computer controlled laser that significantly reduces the risks of complications.

The IntraLase laser creates bubbles side by side within the cornea to create the flap. These bubbles expand to create the flap. The bubbles are created, 15,000 a second.

WHY INTRALASE?

IntraLase makes every Lasik procedure safer, more precise (a 100 times more precise than the blade), more predicable and less invasive. It also preserves more tissue for the future to take advantage of future technology that may require more tissue removed. (should you need this) Another benefit is reduced incidence of a dry eye after surgery. IntraLase allows our surgeon more control during the procedure and even allows customization of the corneal flap for every individual patient. IntraLase combined with CustomLasik has made Lasik a truly customized approach to vision correction taking away the fear and anxiety that some patients have about refractive surgery. Patients who were not candidates for Lasik in the past, may now be good candidates for surgery with the use of this technology.

Traditional Lasik is a good procedure, we have performed tens of thousands of them. IntraLase however, has made Lasik infinitely safer, more precise, more predictable, less invasive and preserves more tissue than traditional Lasik. Traditional Lasik compared to IntraLase, is like comparing a VCR to a DVD. The DVD gives people more options, and more customized features, just as IntraLase does.

WHY DOES IT COST MORE?

IntraLase is the state of the art in creating the flap, again the first step in Lasik surgery. It gives us a new level of security that is well worth any increase in cost. We believe that adding IntraLase as part of our standard of care is worth the additional fee for the benefit it provides our patients. We do not let cost dictate our standard of care, but our goal is to provide our patients with what we believe is the best treatment available, and provides the best possible patient outcome.

The higher fee for IntraLase is essentially what it costs us for the royalty fees and disposables. New technology always costs more.

Helping you obtain your best possible vision, free from glasses and contacts, is our ultimate goal. We want to achieve that in the safest and most precise, most customized method possible. This method is CustomLasik combined with IntraLase.

WHO IS A CANDIDATE FOR INTRALASE?

All patients who are candidates for Lasik surgery, are candidates for IntraLase. Patients who **MUST** have IntraLase are ones with thin corneas, high corrections, dry eyes, patients with unhealthy epithelium-such as patients with epithelial basement membrane dystrophy and patients who are older than 50.