

Residual Refractive Errors after Previous Surgical Procedures

LASIK has also been used to treat residual refractive errors after radial keratotomy, penetrating keratoplasty, epikeratoplasty and cataract surgery⁸. Although there are no separate nomograms for LASIK after these procedures optimal surgical results have been reported by various authors. It is vital to ensure adequate wound healing and rule out corneal thinning prior to considering LASIK surgery in these patients.

CONTRAINDICATIONS OF LASIK

Since LASIK is an elective surgery, any condition that would counter a safe result post-LASIK should be looked for and patient counseling should be done to deter the patient from having surgery, thereby avoiding complications, unfavorable results and a dissatisfied patient. Contraindications of LASIK include absolute and relative conditions (Table 2.2).

Table 2.2: Patient exclusion criteria for LASIK

1. Ectatic corneal disease
2. Thin corneas
3. Active ocular infection
4. Dry eye
5. Glaucoma (especially if a large bleb is present)
6. Blepharophimosis
7. Monocular patients
8. Large pupil size
9. Systemic or retinal vascular disorder
10. Autoimmune disease
11. Pregnancy

Absolute Contraindications for LASIK

In certain cases, LASIK is absolutely contraindicated and should not be undertaken.

Refractive instability is important to document, as results are not predictable in such eyes and the patient may become dissatisfied due to requirement of glasses soon after surgery.