

Welcome to Empire Eye Physicians.

We offer a remarkable combination of advanced surgical skills and state-of-the-art medical technology. Our elite team of board certified surgeons, specialty trained physicians and staff will care for you in a personalized manner.

The most common types of refractive surgery are LASIK, which stands for Laser-Assisted In-Situ Keratomileusis, Photorefractive Keratectomy (PRK), and implantable contact lenses (ICL).



BLADELESS LASIK (LASIK)

Bladeless LASIK surgery, also known as All-Laser LASIK, is the most commonly performed laser eye surgery in practice today. LASIK can treat mild to moderate nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism. Bladeless LASIK uses a femtosecond laser to create a thin flap in the cornea, the clear front surface of the eye. The femtosecond laser provides the surgeon with more options for flap size, shape, and orientation, allowing a more customized LASIK procedure for each patient's personalized vision needs. The femtosecond laser eliminates the need for bladed (microkeratome) surgery. The laser creates a corneal flap with edges that enables the flap to fit more securely in place after LASIK surgery, potentially reducing healing time. An excimer laser is used to reshape the underlying corneal tissue to correct your vision, then the flap is returned to its original position. The procedure typically takes about 20 minutes.



PHOTOREFRACTIVE KERATECTOMY (PRK)

Photorefractive Keratectomy surgery was the first type of laser eye surgery for vision correction. Although PRK recovery time takes a bit longer than the recovery for LASIK, PRK is still commonly performed and offers advantages over LASIK for some patients. Like LASIK, PRK works by reshaping the cornea using an excimer laser, the main difference is the first step of the procedure. With PRK, the thin outer layer of the cornea (epithelium) is removed and discarded, prior to reshaping the underlying corneal tissue with the excimer laser. The epithelium repairs itself by growing back over the corneal surface within a few days after surgery. The procedure typically takes about 20 minutes.



IMPLANTABLE CONTACT LENS (ICL)

Implantable Contact Lens surgery differs from LASIK and PRK because it does NOT alter the structure of the eye or involve corneal tissue removal. Rather, this surgery involves obtaining an Implantable Contact Lens (ICL) specific to your prescription. The procedure involves creating a small opening in the eye and inserting the ICL behind the iris and in front of the eye's crystalline lens. The ICL works naturally with your eye's optical system to enhance its performance. After meeting with one of our physicians and is determined that you are a candidate for an ICL, you will be scheduled for an outpatient procedure at our facility. Prior to the insertion of the ICL, a YAG laser is used to create a small opening in the iris allowing for better fluid flow within the eye. Your eye may be covered with a protective shield following surgery. Within a few days after the procedure for the first eye, the second eye lens will be implanted. The procedure takes only 30 minutes.

YOUR SURGERY

Your Consultation: Your consultation in our office is an essential part of evaluating you for refractive surgery. You will meet with one of our skilled surgeons, who will conduct a thorough exam along with specialty measurements. We will discuss the surgical options available and any other ocular findings that may impact your expected visual outcome. **This is a DILATED exam** that will last about two hours, and we prefer that someone accompany you to your appointment.

Your Surgery: The procedures are done at our surgery center on an outpatient basis. The procedures themselves are only 20-30 minutes, however, you will be at the surgery center for up to **2 hours**. We require you to have someone designated to drive you home after surgery. You will also be asked to return the next day for a follow-up visit.

HOURS & EMERGENCIES

If you are a patient of our practice and experience an eye emergency, such as an injury to the eye, significant eye pain, or sudden vision loss, you should contact our office immediately. If it is after hours, you may call the office phone number to reach our 24-hour answering service to reach the on-call physician.

BOARD CERTIFIED SURGEONS & SPECIALTY TRAINED PHYSICIANS

At Empire Eye Physicians, your vision is our highest priority. We are a team of experienced physicians and health care professionals who are dedicated to providing you with world-class vision care. Your unique needs will always determine the best course of action, and we believe communication is key, where we listen to your concerns, explain your conditions and discuss any treatments and therapies available.

Mark Kontos, M.D. Christopher Sturbaum, M.D. Casey Claypool, O.D. Ali Heaton, O.D.

OUR LOCATIONS



Coeur d'Alene Office

2175 N. Main St. (Riverstone)
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 664-9888



Spokane Valley Office

1414 N. Houk Rd., Suite 103
Spokane Valley, WA 99216
(509) 928-8040



For more information about the types of refractive surgery available, please visit our website at EmpireEye.com or call for a consultation at (509) 928-8040.