

AAFB Warfighter Laser Surgery Center

PRK Pre-Operative Instructions

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Day of Surgery:

1. Do wear comfortable clothing.
2. Bring a driver other than yourself
3. Bring ID card
4. Bring your pre-operative kit sunglasses
5. Bring prescription glasses for non-operative eye (if applicable)
6. Report to the laser center on time.
7. Report to Warfighter Laser Surgery Center, 3rd floor, MGMC
8. Call if you are ill prior to surgery to see if we need to reschedule surgery
9. **DO NOT** wear the following:

Earrings

Make-up, creams or lotions on face

Contact lens (for 30 days for soft, 90 days for hard prior to surgery)

Perfume or cologne

Hair spray or other sprays, mists etc.

What to expect the day of your surgery:

1. While you wait your paperwork will be reviewed.
2. You will be brought to the prepping area for your eye prep
3. You will be brought to the laser treatment room and seated then reclined to a lying down position. A pillow is placed under your head and neck for support and to stabilize your head position.
4. A patch is placed over the non-operative eye to allow you to better concentrate on the flashing light during the procedure.
5. Anesthetic eye drops are placed on the operative eye.
6. The chair is moved into position bringing the operative eye under the laser.
7. An eyelid speculum is placed into the operative eye to keep the eyelids open.
8. After your eye is anesthetized, an instrument, similar to a rotating toothbrush, will gently touch the front surface of your cornea. In 8-10 seconds the brush will remove the thin layer of cells to expose the portion of the cornea where the laser most accurately correct your vision.

9. While you are under the laser, you will see a series of lights including a blinking red light in the center of the others.

10. You will then be asked to **focus on the blinking red light** and the procedure will begin

11. The laser tracks your eye during the surgery, and will automatically stop if your eye is out of alignment. Keeping your eye focusing on the red light, and remaining as still as possible, allows the laser to accomplish its task quickly and accurately.

12. The surgery is painless.

13. Your vision will become blurry during the surgery. This is normal and expected.

14. The popping/ticking noise you hear next to your right ear is the laser at work.

15. As the laser interacts with the corneal tissue, some people smell an odor similar to burning hair, however the laser is NOT burning the cornea. (there is no need for alarm if this occurs). When the laser interacts with your tissue, the gasses release an odor that is detectable by some individuals.

16. At the end of surgery, the instrument holding your lids open is removed, several drops are placed on the eye to help prevent pain, inflammation and infection and then a bandage contact lens is then placed on the eye.

17. Your vision will remain blurry immediately after surgery, but will likely be better than no glasses, depending on your eyeglass prescription.

15. You will receive post-operative instructions including use of medications and follow up appointment times

**If you have questions concerning your surgery please call the
AAFB Warfighter Laser Surgery Center at 240-857-8306, DSN 857-8306**