

LASIK: SAFETY, EFFICACY, AND PATIENT SATISFACTION BETTER THAN EVER

A scientific literature review of more than 4,400 peer-reviewed clinical studies from 2008 to 2015 found that LASIK is safe and effective and that it has a global patient satisfaction rate of more than 98%.¹

“The study was designed to compare recent procedure outcomes with those from earlier forms of LASIK,” Kerry Solomon, MD, President of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS), Director of the Carolina Eyecare Research Center, and the study’s senior author, said in a news release. “The good news is with the introduction and utilization of new technologies including wavefront guidance, modern treatment profiles, and femtosecond laser keratomes, we are seeing even better results and patients are even more satisfied. In fact, the studies providing data on patient satisfaction found only 1.2% of patients were dissatisfied.”

The literature review reported that:

- In 90.8% of 56,000 eyes, visual acuity of 20/20 or better was achieved;
- In 99.5% of patients, visual acuity was 20/40 or better;
- Overall, 90.9% of patients were within 0.50 D of target

- correction, and 98% were within 1.00 D; and
- Less than 1% (.61%) of patients lost 2 lines of BCVA.

The literature review began by analyzing 4,474 articles found via PubMed. Subsequent abstract evaluation reduced the relevant references to 97 articles representing 67,893 eyes. These studies identified and included 30 different laser systems and were evaluated for industry bias with no significant findings.

“Literature review isn’t the most popular research approach, but it is scientifically necessary in order to evaluate the growing body of evidence for any treatment modality,” said Dr. Solomon. “Importantly, our work underscores the fact there is a tremendous amount of research both supporting and advancing the science of LASIK; there is simply no questioning its excellence from a clinical perspective.”

1. Sandoval HP, Donnenfeld ED, Kohnen T, et al. Modern laser in situ keratomileusis outcomes. *J Cataract Refract Surg*. 2016;42(8):1224-1234.

The study, supported by ASCRS and the American Refractive Surgery Council, was previously mentioned in CRST Europe’s July/August issue (LASIK: Then and Now, pg 47).