

FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS, LASIK CAN BE A REAL EYE-OPENER

Laser Eye Surgery Can Make Photography More Comfortable and Convenient

Westbury July 18, 2012 – For photographers, LASIK – laser vision correction surgery – can be a real eye-opener.

By eliminating the hassle of glasses or contacts, LASIK makes it easier and more comfortable to handle cameras, especially the small digital cameras that are increasingly popular among professionals as well as enthusiastic amateurs.

“Photography is all about eyesight – and it’s also about removing obstacles between the photographer and what he sees,” says Dr. Eric D. Donnenfeld, M.D., F.A.C.S. and member of the American Refractive Surgery Council. “LASIK can be a boon to photographers because it removes barriers and makes the act of taking pictures much easier.”

Many photographers need vision correction, and for decades, many have relied on eyeglasses or contacts. But contact lens wearers can be hampered by dust, sand, water or other harsh environmental conditions that photographers often encounter. Glare can be a problem for contact lens wearers as well.

Eyeglasses need to be managed, and can prevent a photographer from seeing the full image in the viewfinder. Only the most expensive professional cameras offer full “eye relief” – the ability to see the full viewfinder image while the eye is a few inches away from the viewfinder, as would be the case for a photographer wearing eyeglasses. Some cameras also offer viewfinders with adjustable diopters that photographers can set to match their vision correction.

But less expensive cameras – including compact and Micro Four-Thirds models increasingly favored by professionals as well as amateurs – often have small viewfinders that offer little eye relief. Many of these cameras offer electronic displays that can be hard to read in bright light – a disadvantage for contact lens wearers and a challenge for everyone who needs vision correction.

Finally, there’s the simple fact that photographers need to manage lots of equipment – cameras, lenses, batteries – and removing eyeglasses or contact lens apparatus from the mix can make their lives in the field much easier.

Dr. Donnenfeld advises that LASIK is surgery, and needs to be taken seriously. Not every person is a good candidate, and there can be risks and side effects. Choosing a good surgeon – an experienced one who is not necessarily the least expensive – is important. Resources available on the Internet, including the [American Refractive Surgery Council’s website](#), can help photographers explore LASIK and learn what questions to ask when they consult with a surgeon.

“Photographers who turn out to be good candidates for LASIK and who undergo the procedure will need to go through an adjustment period,” says Dr. Donnenfeld. “In particular, night vision may be affected until the eye fully heals. But once healing is complete, the improvement in vision and the added convenience can make photography a much more pleasurable experience.”

For more information, or to schedule an interview or bylined article, contact Liana Miller of Engaged Communication at 949-276-8920 or liana@engagedcommunication.net

About Dr. Eric D. Donnenfeld, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Dr. Donnenfeld, a member of the American Refractive Surgery Council, is recognized as one of the leading refractive surgeons in the United States. As one of the original investigators of the excimer laser, he has performed more than 50,000 laser vision corrective surgical procedures. Dr. Donnenfeld has served as president of many professional societies including the Nassau Surgical Society, cornea section of ASCRS, the Ophthalmology Division of the Nassau Academy of Medicine, and the International Ocular Microbiology and Immunology Group. He is on the executive board of ASCRS and is the chief editor of *Cataract and Refractive Surgery Today*. He has written over 170 papers on cornea, external disease, cataract and refractive surgery, and 20 book chapters and books. He is on the editorial board of nine journals and has participated in over 40 FDA studies. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and has received its Honor Award, Senior Honor Award and Secretariat Award.