

INDUSTRY NEWS: Study Finds Visual Outcomes Improved With IntraLase Procedure; U.S. Trends In Refractive Surgery: 2004 ASCRS Survey;

A previously overlooked aspect of the LASIK procedure, the creation of the corneal flap, plays a significant role in the visual outcome of the procedure, according to new clinical research presented at the annual meeting of the American Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS) in Washington, D.C. Highlights of the new findings, including those presented at ASCRS, include:

A greater number of standard and Custom LASIK patients achieve visual results better than 20/20 to 20/15 and 20/12.5 with IntraLase-initiated LASIK.

Prospective, randomized evaluation of wavefront aberrations shows the IntraLase laser induces fewer higher- and lower-order aberrations (associated with night glare and halos), allowing for a corneal surface consistent with wavefront recordings taken pre-operatively.

The planar architecture of the IntraLase flap and corneal bed significantly reduces the incidence of post-operative induced astigmatism - a complication that occurs with some frequency with the microkeratome (blade).

Patients who stated a preference in prospective, randomized clinical trials chose the post-operative vision of their IntraLase-treated eye up to 3-to-1 over their blade-treated eye.