



NORTHWEST EYE SURGEONS

# SMILE FAQs

Questions about SMILE? We're here to help!

Here are six of the most common questions we hear from patients. Good education leads to good decisions.



## WHICH ONE IS BETTER, SMILE OR LASIK?

This is one of the most common questions we hear, and many patients want to know which procedure is “better.” The fact is that both LASIK and SMILE are proven, consistent procedures, and most patients will be very happy with either procedure. Generally speaking, SMILE is the gentler laser vision correction option and has a smaller risk of transient dry eye syndrome. Based on your eye structure and lifestyle goals, your surgeon can recommend the right procedure for you!

## WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD OF SMILE BEFORE?

While SMILE is a new, FDA-approved procedure in the United States, it has been performed worldwide for many years. In fact, more than 1,000 doctors around the world have performed the procedure, and millions of eyes have benefited from better vision thanks to SMILE.

## DOES SMILE COST MORE THAN LASIK?

While SMILE and LASIK use different laser technologies to recreate the clarity of your vision, the costs of the two procedures are often very similar. These costs account for the skill and experience of your surgeon, the costs and fees of acquiring and using the laser technologies, and the costs of the support staff and surgical follow-up.

## WHY DON'T MORE PRACTICES OFFER SMILE?

We don't know! Along with LASIK and PRK, SMILE is a necessary and valuable part of a complete laser vision correction program. SMILE isn't the right procedure for everybody, but we believe that your doctor should have access to every possible technology to ensure they can offer you the best procedure. If a doctor isn't able to offer LASIK, PRK, and SMILE, can you be sure you're getting the best procedure for your eye and lifestyle?

## WILL SMILE HURT?

Patients consistently tell us it was comfortable. Some patients do say they feel a tiny amount of pressure around their eye for a few seconds during the procedure, but are quick to clarify that it didn't hurt at all!

## IS SMILE SAFE?

Yes. SMILE is a proven and consistent laser vision correction procedure that has created better vision for thousands of patients. As with any surgical procedure, there are possible risks and side effects. After a thorough eye exam and consultation, your surgeon will discuss your options with you and help you make the right decision for your vision. Want to learn more? We have more additional information about LASIK, SMILE and our other vision correction options [here](#).



**MICHAEL BANITT, MD, MHA**  
Refractive Surgeon

Michael Banitt, MD, MHA joined Northwest Eye Surgeons in 2019, where he specializes in refractive surgeries including SMILE, LASIK, PRK, and ICL. He completed fellowships in glaucoma at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, FL, and cornea and external disease at the University of Michigan. In addition, he has served as faculty at University of Washington, University of Miami and University of Michigan medical schools in ophthalmology.