

1 **LASIK (Laser Eye Surgery) is a safe alternative to typical methods of eyesight correction**

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3 **Ueuteotl**

4 **Word Count: 400**

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6 Since its official US-patent in 1989, LASIK (Laser Eye Surgery) has undergone much  
7 scrutiny towards the safety of the procedure compared to more “typical” types of vision  
8 correction, mainly eyeglasses and contact lenses. Surveys of the general public that would  
9 consider the procedure indicate much doubt as to the safety and long term effects of laser eye  
10 surgery. In addition, health safety is not the only issue at hand. Questions of lapsing, returning to  
11 the state before the surgery, raise doubts to whether or not it is a financially healthy investment. I  
12 intend to support LASIK as a safe alternative for both your health and your pocket book. On a  
13 side note, a safe alternative does not necessarily imply it is a *safer* alternative with respect to eye  
14 glass and contact lens usage. Though LASIK may be safe, the external and reversible nature of  
15 eyeglass wear cannot be contested as the safest solution to vision correction.

16 Firstly, laser eye surgery is as safe as any other medical treatment. The practitioners are  
17 trained professionals, and over the past 20 years, methods have been revised and improved to the  
18 point where the success rate is nearly 100%. The main side effects are regression, were a patient  
19 loses some focusing power over time. However, the side effects of contact lenses are much more  
20 apparent, which brings us to the second point. As most users of contact lenses are not trained  
21 professionals, there is a greater risk of bacterial infection from improper cleaning and storage.  
22 You are far more likely to contract a bacterial infection in the eye through a lifetime of contact  
23 lens wear compared to a one time LASIK procedure. Thirdly, a study released in the American  
24 Journal of Ophthalmology<sup>1</sup>, followed 100 patients for 10 years after their procedure to see  
25 potential long term problems of LASIK. It was found that none of the patients experienced any  
26 significant side effects, with 90% of the patient’s vision actually improving over the 10 year  
27 span. Finally, another highlight of the study was that none of the patients had to do a second  
28 procedure for lapsing of their vision. Thus, one can assume with high probability that they will  
29 not need a second procedure in their lifetime, proving it is a nearly financially risk free  
30 alternative.

31 In sum, LASIK is not only a healthy alternative to vision correction, but also a financially  
32 safe alternative.

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<sup>1</sup> *American Journal of Ophthalmology in Jan 2008, (Alió JL, Muftuoglu O, Ortiz D, Pérez-Santonja JJ, Artola A, Ayala MJ, Garcia MJ, de Luna GC. Ten-year follow-up of laser in situ keratomileusis for high myopia. Am J Ophthalmol. 2008;145(1):55-64.)*