LASIK Surgeon Checklist

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| **Important Questions** | **Jason P. Brinton, MD** | **Surgeon A** | **Surgeon B** | **Benefit to You** |
| **How much experience does the surgeon have?** | Dr. Brinton has performed thousands of refractive surgeries and is the only full-time comprehensive refractive surgeon in Missouri. His work is published in over 80 scientific publications, abstracts, book chapters, and presentations. He has lectured nationally and internationally, and has performed vision correction surgeries on patients from 16 countries and 42 states. |  |  | Experience translates to safety and better outcomes. You should feel secure knowing that, should problems arise, your surgeon will be prepared to deal with it. Further, if your surgeon has shown willingness to take on leadership roles, they are exhibiting a level of dedication that goes above and beyond the norm. It also shows that they’ll likely be willing to go above and beyond to make sure you have the best care. |
| **Does the surgeon spend one-on-one time with you prior to the day of surgery?** | During patients’ first visit, Dr. Brinton dedicates a full 30 minutes to discussing results of their comprehensive Brinton Vision Ocular Analysis. He makes sure they have the information they need to make informed choices about vision correction surgery. |  |  | Developing a relationship with your surgeon is greatly important. Your LASIK surgeon should not only go over general facts and figures regarding LASIK, but also take time to evaluate your eye from the back to the front, thoroughly examining the optic nerve, retina, iris, cornea, and other structures. He or she should determine the risks specific to your anticipated procedure, eye anatomy, and health history. This isn’t information your surgeon should be skimming through just prior to surgery; it’s information you need to go over in person in advance so that both of you understand. |
| **Do patients receive a comprehensive ocular analysis prior to surgery?** | Yes. Brinton Vision is one of a handful of practices in the U.S. to use seven of the most state-of-the-art diagnostic technologies so that we get a complete picture of your eye health and vision issues. Patients spend a full 30 minutes with their surgeon, Dr. Brinton, to discuss results and determine which option is best for them. |  |  | From a surgeon’s standpoint, the best way to make sure laser eye surgery goes as planned is to do everything possible before surgery day to evaluate, diagnose, and develop a plan of action. The more information your surgeon has available, the more likely they will be to foresee problems, predict results, and even make an educated decision about what, if any, corrective procedures are right for you. Be sure your surgeon utilizes the latest in diagnostic technology. After all, there should be nothing left to chance when it comes to your vision. |
| **Does the surgeon offer alternatives to LASIK?** | Yes. Brinton Vision performs LASIK, ASA, Raindrop inlay, Kamra inlay, SMILE, RLE, and Visian ICL. All are available under one roof in our own facility. |  |  | Every set of eyes is unique, and LASIK is not right for many people. Steep astigmatism, maturity, thin corneas, prior surgery, and severe vision impairment are just a few reasons why other options may be better. Never settle for a one-size-fits-all approach. The more options your surgeon has available, the more likely it is that you’ll find the right fit for your vision needs. |
| **Does the practice specialize solely in refractive surgery?** | Yes. All we do is refractive surgery, which allows us to focus on providing the latest technology and to stay up-to-date on the science behind laser eye surgery. This begins with a thorough examination of every aspect of your vision system, from the optic nerve and retina to the front of your cornea. Specializing in refractive surgery also allows us to invest in the most advanced, proven technology to both evaluate and treat your vision problems. |  |  | If you had an issue with your heart, you would want to visit a cardiologist. If you had skin problems, you’d go to a dermatologist. The same logic applies with refractive surgeons. A dedicated full-time refractive surgeon focuses his or her education, training, and skill on a single area of expertise, and you can bet they’re pretty good at it if that’s all they do. Ask your surgeon what percentage of their practice focuses on refractive surgery.  |
| **Is the doctor board-certified?** | Yes. Dr. Brinton is a board-certified Harvard Medical School graduate and has advanced fellowship training in refractive surgery. |  |  | The American Board of Ophthalmology establishes high standards for patient care, provides physicians with tools for lifelong learning and continuous practice improvement, and provides patients with a credible indicator of physician quality. Your surgeon should be certified with the board. |
| **Do other eye doctors recommend the practice?** | Yes. Dr. Brinton is among the Top 1% of refractive surgeons selected to lecture other surgeons on refractive procedures. He has performed laser eye surgery on multiple doctors and other surgeons and is well-respected in his field.  |  |  | Although it can be difficult to find other doctors’ opinions about your surgeon, don’t be afraid to ask your optometrist or do some research on any surgeon you are considering. A good question to ask other doctors is, “Would you trust this surgeon with your own eyes?” Also, look for leadership roles a surgeon has held within his or her field. This is a good indicator that they likely hold a good reputation among the medical community. |
| **Are affordable payment plans offered?** | Yes. We offer Alphaeon and CareCredit financing. The most common options are no down payment, no interest for 24 months, or low monthly payments and fixed interest for 60 months. |  |  | Cost should never be the primary factor when considering vision correction surgery. After all, you would not shop for a cardiologist based on how cheaply they can perform bypass surgery. Your vision is one of the most important senses you have, so cheap is not always better. Still, in order to make vision correction surgery attainable, it’s good to know your surgeon works with finance partners who can provide affordable payment options if needed. |
| **Are the lasers checked and calibrated before every surgery?** | Yes. Lasers are checked and calibrated prior to every surgery. Nothing is left to chance. |  |  | In many surgery centers, technology is not recalibrated between each patient — particularly in large box store-type operations where the focus is on getting the most patients in and out of surgery as possible. This is a bad idea because the chance for error increases. It may not seem like a big deal if one of every 50 patients has a problem with their surgery, but when you are that patient, you can bet it is important to be as careful as possible. |
| **Are the temperature and humidity in the operating room controlled by a high-tech system?** | Yes. We use a large, sophisticated, rooftop unit to control the temperature and humidity in the operating room. |  |  | Temperature and humidity level affect the precision of lasers. Maintaining ideal levels requires tremendous cost investment, and this is often where LASIK centers cut corners. When it comes to the micro levels of accuracy that each laser must attain, there is no substitute for investing in only the best. Find a surgeon who agrees that your vision is worth it. |
| **How many lasers does the surgeon have access to and expertise in using?** | Dr. Brinton uses the VISX S4 IR excimer laser; Allegretto Wavelight excimer laser; Zeiss Visumax femtosecond laser; Intralase femtosecond laser. |  |  | Laser technology has improved dramatically in the last decade or so. Staying on top of those improvements can be costly, but better technology often translates into better results. Some new laser technologies allow surgeons to perform procedures they were unable to do before, and others allow surgeons to perform procedures on patients who would not be good candidates for LASIK using older lasers. The more your surgeon has in his or her arsenal of tools, the more options you may have available to you.  |
| **Is the surgeon advanced fellowship-trained?** | Yes. Dr. Brinton trained as a fellow under Dr. Dan Durrie in the fields of cornea and refractive surgery. He has also overseen the training of other fellows. |  |  | Not all ophthalmologists are fellowship-trained, but to undergo additional training in their field says a lot about the extent they are willing to go to provide patients with the very best level of care. Fellowship training allows doctors to learn from the best of the best through research and clinical practice. |
| **Has the surgeon been involved in research or been chosen to educate other surgeons on refractive procedures?** | Yes. Dr. Brinton is world-renowned and has an extensive list of accomplishments as a leader in the field of refractive surgery, and has been involved in teaching and research of modern procedures. His list of commendations and his professional vitae can be found at www.brintonvision.com/dr-jason-p-brinton/ |  |  | Refractive surgery is relatively new in medicine, yet it has been incredibly successful. Like any field of medicine or area of study regarding the human body, there is always more to discover. Only the most passionate in the field dedicate their time to not only bettering their skills, but toward pushing the scientific boundaries of our knowledge of vision. If your surgeon is dedicated to taking on leadership roles, that passion will likely show in patient care. |