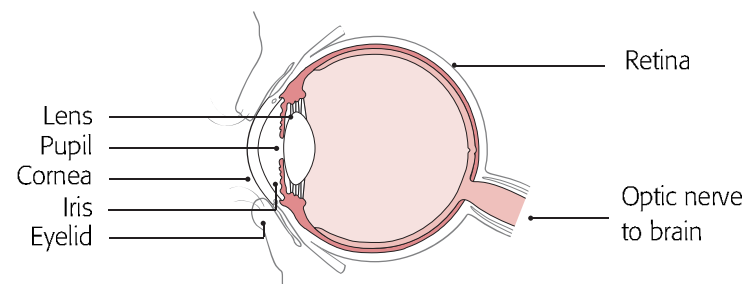


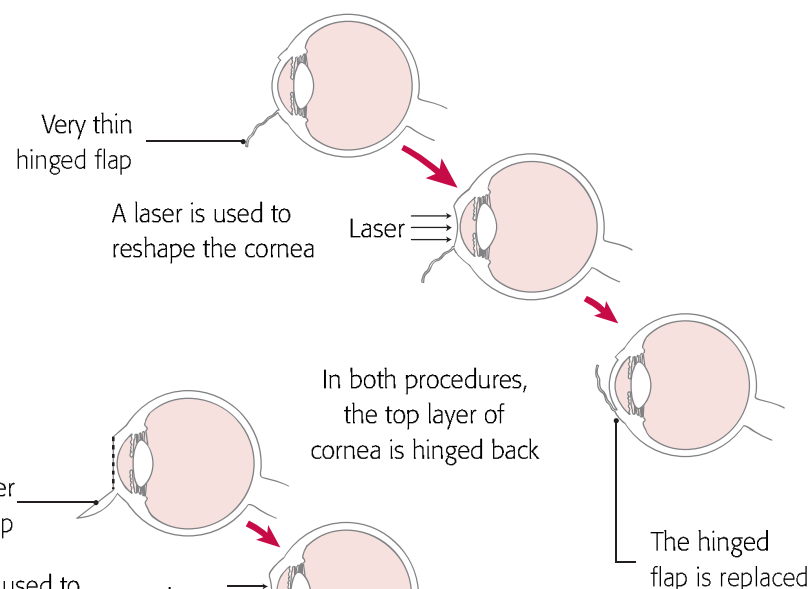
Refractive laser surgery

- If the cornea, the clear window at the front of your eye, has too much focusing power, you are 'short sighted'. If it has too little focusing power, you are 'long sighted'. Refractive laser surgery can reshape the cornea to correct its focusing power.
- Refractive laser surgery is not suitable for teenagers, very short-sighted patients or the elderly.
- Laser surgery is a day-case procedure. Laser-assisted epithelial keratomileusis (LASEK) or laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis (LASIK) both correct mild-to-moderate focusing errors. You will be given anaesthetic eye drops before undergoing either type of surgery.
- Modern lasers produce a powerful beam of light which, in both LASEK and LASIK, is used to cut a flap of cornea and then reshape the exposed surface of the cornea.
- In LASEK, a very thin flap is lifted from the surface of the cornea before the exposed surface of the cornea is reshaped. The flap is then replaced but it may take a few months for your sight to stabilize.
- In LASIK, a thicker hinged flap is created from the surface of the cornea before the exposed surface of the cornea is reshaped. The flap is then replaced and the improvement in vision is almost immediate.
- Some patients with thin corneas and greater degrees of focusing error are not suitable for LASIK but may be suitable for LASEK. The long-term results with both techniques are the same.

Side view



LASEK



LASIK

