LASIK in Bozeman: Laser Vision Correction for Montana?s Active Patients

October 06, 2026

BOZEMAN, MT - October 06, 2026 -
Vance Thompson Vision, an ophthalmology practice located in Bozeman, Montana, is highlighting LASIK as a vision correction option for patients across the Gallatin Valley whose recreational and professional routines place demands on visual clarity. The practice provides LASIK along with PRK, crosslinking, cataract surgery, cornea care, and glaucoma treatment to residents of Bozeman, Big Sky, Livingston, Belgrade, and Manhattan.

With outdoor pursuits including skiing, fly fishing, trail running, and mountain biking forming part of daily life for many Montanans, interest in laser vision correction has remained a consistent topic of patient inquiry at the Bozeman location, where preoperative LASIK evaluations are conducted year-round.

LASIK, short for laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis, is an outpatient refractive procedure that reshapes the cornea to correct nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism. At the Bozeman location, the procedure is performed using a femtosecond laser to create a thin corneal flap, after which an excimer laser reshapes the underlying corneal tissue based on measurements taken from each patient's eye. The flap is then repositioned and adheres without sutures.

The procedure itself typically takes under 15 minutes for both eyes, and numbing eye drops are used during the procedure. Patients remain awake throughout, and most return to normal activities within one to two days, depending on individual healing.

Candidacy for LASIK is determined through a preoperative evaluation that includes corneal topography, pachymetry, and a refractive exam. Vance Thompson Vision evaluates patients in Bozeman, Belgrade, Manhattan, Livingston, and Big Sky to determine whether LASIK or another refractive option, such as PRK, is the appropriate choice based on corneal thickness, prescription range, and ocular health. For patients who pursue activities such as alpine skiing, hiking the Bridger Range, or wading into the Madison River, the preoperative process includes a discussion of how the procedure may affect training schedules, eye protection requirements, and seasonal recovery timing.

Postoperative recovery from LASIK at Vance Thompson Vision Bozeman generally involves a series of follow-up visits during the first six months, with many patients reporting functional vision within 24 hours of the procedure. Patients are given specific instructions regarding screen use, water exposure, and protective eyewear during the initial healing window.

The practice also performs PRK as an alternative for patients whose corneal anatomy, prescription, or occupation makes a flap-based procedure less suitable, and the choice between LASIK and PRK is made during the preoperative consultation. Both procedures are designed to reduce or eliminate dependence on glasses and contact lenses, though individual outcomes vary based on prescription strength, ocular health, and adherence to postoperative care.

"LASIK is a well-studied refractive procedure, and the decision to proceed depends on a careful preoperative workup and a clear conversation about expectations," said Russell Swan, MD, board-certified ophthalmologist at Vance Thompson Vision in Bozeman "My fellowship at Vance Thompson Vision and continued academic work at the University of Utah inform how I evaluate candidacy for every patient who walks into our Bozeman clinic. For active Montanans, that conversation often includes how the recovery period fits with skiing season, fishing trips, or training cycles, and we plan accordingly."

Dr. Swan completed his medical degree at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, his ophthalmology residency at the Moran Eye Center at the University of Utah, and a fellowship in advanced anterior segment surgery at Vance Thompson Vision in Sioux Falls. He is an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Utah Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and a member of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, He serves on the Young Eye Surgeons Clinical Committee and ASCRS International Foundation Committee. He was a 2018 Millennial Eye "One to Watch" Award recipient and leads annual mission trips to Hospital San Felipe in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

Vance Thompson Vision is located at 2825 W. Main St. #2-C, Bozeman, MT 59718, and serves patients throughout Bozeman, Big Sky, Livingston, Belgrade, and Manhattan. The Bozeman office is positioned on West Main Street with on-site parking, providing access for patients traveling from Gallatin County and the surrounding region for LASIK consultations and follow-up care. Patients from Big Sky, Livingston, and surrounding communities travel to the Bozeman office for consultations and follow-up care.

For more information about LASIK at Vance Thompson Vision, procedure details and consultation scheduling information are available, and the Vance Thompson Vision Bozeman location page provides further information about the clinic and its refractive services. Vance Thompson Vision continues to provide LASIK and related refractive care to patients across Montana's Gallatin Valley, including Bozeman, Big Sky, Livingston, Belgrade, and Manhattan.

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For more information about Vance Thompson Vision - Bozeman, contact the company here:Vance Thompson Vision - BozemanVance Thompson Vision(406) 219-0700info@vancethompsonvision.com2825 W Main St #2-C Bozeman, MT 59718

Vance Thompson Vision - Bozeman

Vance Thompson Vision are world leaders in quality vision correction and patient care in ophthalmology. We specialize in vision surgery and treatment with a specific focus on LASIK, refractive cataract surgery, glaucoma, cornea care, and oculoplastics.

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