New Vance Thompson Vision Guide Compares LASIK, EVO ICL, and RLE for Billings Patients

November 02, 2026

Billings, MT - November 02, 2026 -
Patients who want to reduce or eliminate their dependence on glasses and contact lenses generally have three surgical procedures to weigh: LASIK, EVO ICL, and refractive lens exchange. Vance Thompson Vision has published a patient guide explaining how the three differ, which patient profile each one suits, and what determines candidacy.

The article, "LASIK, EVO ICL & RLE in Billings: Your Complete Vision Correction Guide", was written for patients in Billings, Montana, and medically reviewed by Russell Swan, MD, the board-certified ophthalmologist who leads Vance Thompson Vision's Montana practices. It describes LASIK as a laser procedure that reshapes the cornea so light focuses correctly on the retina, EVO ICL as a collamer lens implanted in front of the natural lens without removing corneal tissue, and refractive lens exchange as a replacement of the eye's natural lens with a custom implant.

Age is one of the clearest dividing lines among the three, according to the guide. It identifies LASIK candidates as generally falling between 20 and 45 years of age with stable prescriptions, adequate corneal thickness, and no significant history of dry eye. EVO ICL is presented as the path for patients outside those

parameters, including those with thinner corneas, higher prescriptions, or chronic dry eye that would make laser correction less advisable. Refractive lens exchange enters the conversation for patients over 40, the point at which the natural lens begins to stiffen in the process known as presbyopia and reading glasses typically become necessary.

On cost, the guide explains that all three procedures are elective and therefore typically fall outside insurance coverage. Pricing is described as customized to the individual patient rather than fixed by procedure, since lens selection and treatment planning vary from case to case. The article notes that consultations at the Billings location are complimentary, that low- to no-interest financing options are available and that patients receive a cost breakdown before making any treatment decision.

On how long results last, the guide draws its distinction from what each procedure actually changes. LASIK reshapes corneal tissue and is designed to provide lasting correction of distance vision, though the guide is direct that laser procedures cannot restore the flexibility the natural lens loses with age. EVO ICL is described as removable should vision change substantially later, which the article frames as a point of flexibility for younger patients. Refractive lens exchange replaces the natural lens entirely, and because that lens is removed, the guide notes it cannot later develop a cataract. In every case, the article points to comprehensive examination and advanced diagnostics such as corneal topography and tomography as the step that confirms candidacy.

"Most patients arrive knowing the word LASIK and very little beyond it," said Russell Swan, MD, board-certified ophthalmologist, Vance Thompson Vision ? Montana.. "The useful question is rarely whether someone qualifies for one particular procedure. It is which of the three matches their age, their corneal anatomy, and what they need their vision to do over the next several decades. A guide like this gives patients that framework before they ever sit down for a consultation."

Vance Thompson Vision ? Billings is located at 1747 Poly Dr in Billings, Montana, and serves patients from Billings, Laurel, Hardin, Miles City, and Sheridan, Wyoming. Patients commonly travel three or more hours for care at the practice. Clinic location and hours are listed on the practice's Billings map listing.

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Vance Thompson Vision - Billings

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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