RLE in Bozeman: Freedom from Bifocals for Montana Patients

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BOZEMAN, MT - November 03, 2026 -
Vance Thompson Vision, an ophthalmology practice located in Bozeman, Montana, performs refractive lens exchange (RLE) for patients in the Gallatin Valley who are seeking to reduce or eliminate dependence on bifocals, progressive lenses, and reading glasses. The procedure replaces the natural lens of the eye with an intraocular lens (IOL), addressing the age-related condition known as presbyopia, which typically begins after age 40 and often leads to the need for reading correction. As more Montana residents reach the age range associated with presbyopia, refractive lens exchange has become a vision correction option at the practice?s Bozeman office for patients who are not candidates for laser-based procedures such as LASIK or PRK because of changes in their natural lens.

Refractive lens exchange follows a similar surgical approach to cataract surgery but is performed before a visually significant cataract has developed. During the procedure, the natural crystalline lens is removed through a small corneal incision, and an artificial intraocular lens is implanted in its place. The replacement lens is selected to correct the patient?s refractive error, including nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism, and presbyopia. Patients in Bozeman, Big Sky, Livingston, Belgrade, and Manhattan can be evaluated at the practice?s Bozeman office for several categories of IOLs, including monofocal lenses for

distance vision, multifocal and extended depth of focus (EDOF) lenses that provide a range of focus from near to far, and toric lenses for astigmatism correction. Each lens design corresponds to a different visual goal, and selection is based on the patient?s prescription, ocular anatomy, lifestyle, and daily visual demands.

For Gallatin Valley patients who have begun relying on bifocals, progressive lenses, or over-the-counter reading glasses, RLE addresses presbyopia at its anatomical source. Unlike LASIK, which reshapes the cornea to correct refractive error, refractive lens exchange replaces the lens itself, which is the structure of the eye responsible for the gradual loss of near focus that occurs with age. Because the natural lens is removed during RLE, the procedure also removes the lens where cataracts would form later in life. Candidates for RLE are typically patients over age 45 with progressive presbyopia, those with refractive errors that fall outside the treatment range of LASIK or PRK, and patients showing early lens changes that suggest cataract development within the next several years. Vance Thompson Vision evaluates RLE candidacy at the Bozeman office for patients across southwest Montana, including those traveling from Livingston, Belgrade, Manhattan, and Big Sky.

The RLE procedure at Vance Thompson Vision in Bozeman is performed by Dr. Russell Swan, a board-certified ophthalmologist who completed a fellowship in advanced anterior segment surgery at Vance Thompson Vision in Sioux Falls and serves as an adjunct assistant professor at the University of Utah Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. Dr. Swan leads both Montana locations of the practice and was a 2018 Millennial Eye One to Watch Award recipient.

?Refractive lens exchange addresses presbyopia at its source, which is the aging natural lens of the eye,? said Dr. Russell Swan, board-certified ophthalmologist at Vance Thompson Vision. ?For patients in their 50s and 60s who have begun depending on bifocals or progressive lenses for reading and computer work, RLE replaces the lens with an intraocular implant matched to the patient?s prescription and visual goals. The same procedure also removes the lens that would eventually develop a cataract, which means RLE patients do not need separate cataract surgery for that lens later in life.?

Vance Thompson Vision is located at 2825 W. Main St., #2-C, Bozeman, MT 59718, and serves patients throughout the Gallatin Valley and surrounding southwest Montana communities, including Big Sky, Livingston, Belgrade, and Manhattan. RLE consultations and preoperative evaluations take place at the Bozeman office, where measurements such as biometry, corneal topography, and ocular health screening are completed before an IOL is selected and the procedure is scheduled. The location is accessible from Interstate 90 and West Main Street and functions as the practice?s southwest Montana office for lens-based surgical procedures.

Additional information about refractive lens exchange and the practice's full range of implant procedures is available on the Vance Thompson Vision website. Patients seeking consultation in the Gallatin Valley can find office details, physician information, and contact options on the Vance Thompson Vision Bozeman location page. The Bozeman office continues to evaluate Montana residents for refractive lens exchange based on each patient's age, prescription, lens condition, and visual goals.

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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

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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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