Kugler Vision Examines Lifetime Risk of Contact Lenses vs. Laser Vision Correction in Omaha, Nebraska

November 16, 2026

OMAHA, NE - November 16, 2026 -
Kugler Vision, a LASIK surgeon located in Omaha, Nebraska, has published a patient education article comparing the long-term risks of daily contact lens wear with the risks of one-time vision correction procedures. The practice provides LASIK, SMILE, Refractive Lens Exchange, and other forms of laser vision correction to patients across eastern Nebraska and western Iowa. The article, titled "Contact Lenses vs. LASIK: Which Is Actually Riskier Over a Lifetime?", examines how the cumulative risk of wearing contacts across decades compares with the risk associated with a single procedure.

The central point of the article is that the assumption many patients bring to the decision may reverse when risk is measured over a lifetime rather than year to year. According to the article, the primary long-term concern associated with contact lens wear is microbial keratitis, a corneal infection for which the American Academy of Ophthalmology identifies contact lens wear as the leading cause in the United States. Because a lens rests directly against the cornea, each year of wear carries a small, renewed infection risk rather than a single one. Published clinical data cited in the article place the annual risk of microbial keratitis for daily-wear soft lenses at roughly two to four per 10,000 wearers, and peer-reviewed modeling estimates the cumulative risk of a bacterial corneal infection at about one in 100 over 30 years of daily wear.

Patients in Omaha and Lincoln who are weighing that tradeoff have access to laser vision correction at Kugler Vision, including LASIK and SMILE, each of which the article describes as carrying a single risk concentrated in the healing period rather than a recurring annual one. For residents of Bellevue and Council Bluffs, Iowa, considering alternatives to lifelong contact lens wear, the practice also performs refractive lens exchange and EVO ICL, lens-based procedures that likewise concentrate risk within a one-time healing window. A 2017 comparison referenced in the article found that five years of daily soft lens wear produced roughly three times the infection cases of a single LASIK procedure, and a 2013 study cited in the piece reported that high-oxygen silicone hydrogel lens materials did not lower rates of microbial keratitis.

The article was authored by Dr. Drew Dickson, MD, PCEO, a board-certified ophthalmologist and Fellow of the World College of Refractive Surgery at Kugler Vision. The practice has two surgeons who hold the World

College of Refractive Surgery Fellowship, a credential held by fewer than 3.33 percent of refractive surgeons nationwide, and it was the first practice in Nebraska to offer all seven modern vision correction procedures. "Many people think of contacts as the low-risk option and surgery as the gamble, but that framing overlooks how risk behaves over decades," said Dr. Lance Kugler, MD, board-certified ophthalmologist, Fellow of the World College of Refractive Surgery, and founder of Kugler Vision. "A daily-worn lens renews a small infection risk every year it is used, while a corneal or lens-based procedure concentrates its risk in a single healing period. Helping each patient understand that difference is central to identifying the option that fits their eyes and their daily life."

The article also outlines steps that reduce contact lens infection risk, including the use of daily disposable lenses, avoiding sleeping or swimming in lenses, replacing lenses as directed, and removing them at the first sign of pain, redness, or light sensitivity. On the surgical side, it points to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's LASIK quality-of-life data, in which fewer than 1 percent of patients reported significant difficulty with usual activities after surgery, and notes that post-operative dry eye happen in the short term but generally resolves as the eye heals.

Kugler Vision is located at 17838 Burke Street, Suite 100, in Omaha, Nebraska, and serves patients throughout Omaha, Lincoln, Bellevue, and Council Bluffs, Iowa. Driving directions to the practice are available online, and additional location details can be viewed on Google Maps. Candidacy for any vision correction procedure depends on factors such as a stable prescription, healthy corneas, and adequate corneal thickness, each of which the practice evaluates during a consultation before recommending an approach.

Kugler Vision provides LASIK, SMILE, Refractive Lens Exchange, and EVO ICL, along with its broader range of laser vision correction procedures, to patients in Omaha, Nebraska, and the surrounding region. Information about each procedure and about comparing vision correction options over a lifetime is available on the practice website at kuglervision.com. As contact lens wear remains one of the most common forms of vision correction, Kugler Vision plans to continue publishing patient education resources that help area residents evaluate their long-term options.

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Kugler Vision

Kugler Vision is Omaha?s leader in custom LASIK Eye Surgery and Laser Vision Correction Procedures. Led by Dr. Lance Kugler, Kugler Vision also provides SMILE, PRK, EVO ICL, Blended LASIK, and Refractive Lens Exchange (RLE) procedures.

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