Vance Thompson Vision ? Northern Colorado Publishes Guide to LASIK Candidacy for Loveland and Fort Collins Patients

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Whether someone is a candidate for LASIK is decided by eye measurements, not by an eyeglass prescription. A new article published by Vance Thompson Vision ? Northern Colorado explains that candidacy rests on corneal thickness, corneal shape, tear production, prescription stability, and overall eye health, a set of measurements most patients have never had taken. A standard vision exam updates a prescription; it does not assess whether the cornea can safely support a laser procedure.

That assessment happens at a consultation, which means patients across Loveland, Fort Collins, Greeley, Longmont, and Windsor are not expected to answer the candidacy question on their own. The article also makes a second point clear: being told no to LASIK is not the end of the conversation. Patients who fall outside the treatable range often remain candidates for another approach to reducing dependence on glasses and contact lenses.

The full article, "LASIK Candidacy in Northern Colorado: Who Qualifies, Who Doesn't & What Alternatives Exist", is available on the Vance Thompson Vision website. It was authored by Dr. Cullen

Ryburn, the board-certified ophthalmologist who leads the Northern Colorado practice.

According to the article, the disqualifying factors cluster around the cornea and the stability of the prescription. Corneas that are too thin cannot spare the tissue LASIK reshapes, and an irregular surface or keratoconus, a condition in which the cornea thins into a cone shape, can make the procedure unsuitable. A prescription that is still shifting, active dry eye disease, certain autoimmune conditions that affect healing, and pregnancy or breastfeeding are also cited as reasons to wait or to consider a different route. Prescriptions outside the treatable range and uncontrolled eye disease round out the list.

The article frames these findings as protective. Some factors, such as dry eye, can be treated first and revisited.

For patients who do not qualify, the article identifies three alternatives offered at Vance Thompson Vision. PRK reshapes the cornea without creating a corneal flap, which the article notes may suit thinner corneas or contact-sport athletes, though recovery generally takes longer than LASIK. EVO ICL places a corrective lens inside the eye rather than removing corneal tissue, an approach the article describes as relevant for higher prescriptions, thinner corneas, or significant dry eye. Refractive lens exchange replaces the natural lens with an intraocular lens and is most often discussed with patients over 40 whose own lens is driving the problem.

Age matters, the article explains, but not as a simple cutoff. For younger patients, what counts is that the prescription has stopped changing, a point different people reach at different ages, which is why the consultation measures stability rather than checking a birthdate. After 40, the natural lens stiffens in a process called presbyopia. LASIK reshapes the cornea and does not halt that change, so some patients over 40 may still use readers afterward, and some are better served by a lens-based procedure.

"The cornea tells you what is possible long before the prescription does," said Cullen Ryburn, MD, board-certified ophthalmologist, Vance Thompson Vision ? Northern Colorado. "Thickness, shape, and surface health are what determine whether laser correction is a sound choice for a given eye, and those are things a patient simply cannot know without imaging. My fellowship training in cornea and refractive surgery is what allows me to read those measurements carefully and, when LASIK is not the right answer, explain what is."

Dr. Ryburn completed his fellowship in cornea, external diseases, and refractive surgery at the University of Miami's Bascom Palmer Eye Institute, ranked the No. 1 ophthalmology program by U.S. News & World Report. He completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Colorado. He is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery, and his practice spans cataract surgery, cornea, glaucoma, and refractive surgery.

The Northern Colorado practice is part of Vance Thompson Vision, a network with more than 80,000 procedures performed and nearly 100 years of combined surgical experience. The office is located at 2975 Ginnala Dr, Ste 120 in Loveland and serves patients throughout the Front Range. Location details and directions are available on the practice's Google Business Profile.

Patients can reach the Loveland office at (970) 775-5453 to arrange a consultation.

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For more information about Vance Thompson Vision - Northern Colorado, contact the company here:Vance Thompson Vision - Northern ColoradoVance Thompson Vision970-775-5453info@vancethompsonvision.com2975 Ginnala Dr STE 120, Loveland, CO 80538

Vance Thompson Vision - Northern Colorado

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.

Website: https://www.vancethompsonvision.com/locations/northern-colorado

Email: info@vancethompsonvision.com

Phone: 970-775-5453