

Side by Side Comparison: PRK, LASIK and ICL Procedures

	PRK Laser Technique	LASIK Laser Technique	ICL
Incisions	Laser on surface in center of cornea	Laser under flap in center of cornea	
	Covering tissue removed at start, must heal	Covering tissue not removed, flap cut with microkeratome	
Surgeon skill	Low	Medium	High
Cost	Moderate	Most expensive	Expensive
Visual recovery	Slower: 1-2 months	Fast (few days)	Fast
Bilateral surgery?	No	Yes (increased risk)	Yes
Range of refractive error:	Best for low to moderate myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism	Low to high myopia, hyperopia, astigmatism	High myopia
Night vision problems:	Glare, haloes (usually temporary)	Glare, haloes (usually temporary)	Minimal
Ease of enhancement:	More difficult	Least difficult	Can use laser to enhance
Unique side effects:	Haze and scarring	Flap complications	Cataract, infection
Structurally weakens eye:	No	No	Does not alter cornea, good for thin or more irregular corneas
Altitude can effect:	No	No	