

## Vision quest

LASIK surgery remains a popular option for correcting poor eyesight

BY RANDLE TOEPFER

What do Jessica Simpson, Tiger Woods, Troy Aikman, Tom Kite and Se Ri Pak all have in common? They all are people who have benefited from laser vision correction surgery (LASIK).

LASIK is quickly becoming the most popular elective surgical procedure among golfers today because accurate vision is vital for judging distances, reading greens and avoiding nasty water hazards. This safe, state-of-the-art procedure instantly improves vision and eliminates the dependency on contact lenses and eyeglasses. Anyone who wears eyeglasses and has attempted to play golf in the rain, knows exactly what a colossal problem that can be.

Laser vision correction is not for everyone. It's virtually painless, but some patients report a slight discomfort. The irritation is compared to having an eyelash stuck under your eyelid. The best way to determine your candidacy is with a proper screening and thorough evaluation.

LASIK involves a surgeon making an incision in the eye and creating a flap, revealing the cornea. The flap is then peeled back and a laser is used to reshape the cornea. Once the cornea is reshaped, light rays entering the eye will then properly focus on the retina for clear vision. The actual procedure only takes about 10-15 minutes per eye. Most patients can go back to work the next day.

"LASIK is a fantastic option for vision correction and it's also exciting to see the other ways in which technology is advancing," says Dr. Michael Shapiro of Anderson & Shapiro Eye Care in Madison, the first facility in that city to perform the procedure. "Dr. Anderson and I are always looking for the best new way to improve the vision of our patients. Golfers are always looking for ways to improve their game. The surgery doesn't automatically help your game, but being able to see well never hurts and at least makes being outside more enjoyable."

Recent studies have shown that amateur golfers actually had better results than professionals did after LASIK, simply because they had more room for improvement. Results will always vary,

but LASIK certainly has helped many professional golfers today gain an extra advantage. Vijay Singh, Juli Inkster, Jesper Parnevik, Laura Davies, Hal Sutton, Hale Irwin and Fred Funk all went through it. Retief Goosen had the procedure done and won the U.S. Open Championship. Corey Pavin had the surgery done and won the U.S. Bank Championship in Milwaukee last July. Tiger Woods went through the procedure and went on to

become the first golfer to hold all four professional major championships at one time.

"I had heard all of the stories about people claiming that laser vision correction was like a miracle in their lives," said Woods after having the procedure performed. "I was interested, even curious, but I never imagined how much this procedure would change my life. When I recall how poor my eyesight was my entire life, I feel like I've experienced a miracle."

Although the LASIK procedure is now offered by many doctors and clinics, Dr. Shapiro advises those interested not to go the discount route.

"Safety, outcomes and patient satisfaction should always be the deciding factor behind the center you choose, not the cost," Shapiro said.

Consider the following laser vision surgery quick facts:

- 53 percent of Americans wear contact lenses or eyeglasses.
- 8.1 million people have undergone LASIK, the most common elective surgical procedure in the U.S.
- Most procedures take about 10-15 minutes per eye.
- There have been no reported cases of blindness in any LASIK patient.
- 98 percent of patients see 20/20 or better after the procedure.

Anderson & Shapiro Eye Care Clinic is becoming a leader in LASIK procedures in southern Wisconsin, specializing in state-of-the-art custom eye care with an emphasis on cataract and refractive surgery, glaucoma, corneal and retinal disease. For further info, contact Anderson & Shapiro at (888) 708-3937 or go to [www.be2020.com](http://www.be2020.com). □

