



Treatable Eye Conditions

Myopia

Correcting shortsightedness through refractive eye surgery is, without doubt, one of most satisfying experiences of our work, as patients have often suffered from this condition since childhood and are absolutely delighted to finally be free of a daily ritual of inserting contact lenses or scrambling around for their glasses when they wake up.

With shortsightedness, the focus point of light entering the eye falls in front of the retina, due to the curvature of the cornea being excessively round. The stronger a patient's prescription, the greater the distance between the retina and the focus point, resulting in increasing degrees of blurred vision. With our advanced laser technology, we can modify the curvature of the cornea with pinpoint accuracy and remove the patient's dependence on both glasses and contact lenses forever. For our patients, the realisation of the lifestyle, confidence and convenience implications of being free of glasses are a joy to witness and share in.

If you've struggled to continue participating in a sport you enjoy, had to cut short nights out due to contact lens irritation or just grown tired of your dependency on glasses or contact lenses. Although refractive surgery isn't cheap, neither is a lifetime of purchasing contact lenses, glasses and prescription sunglasses.

Recent clinical studies have raised concerns about the potential health risks of wearing contact lenses, arising from infections caused by people failing to disinfect their lenses properly, most likely arising when wearers have inadvertently allowed tap water to come into contact with their lenses, when showering or washing.

Hyperopia

Hyperopia, or long-sightedness, is caused by the eyeball being too flat, causing the focal point from light entering the eye to fall behind the retina, resulting in blurred vision. This is particularly noticeable when people with hyperopia try to focus on near objects like newspapers and books and many people with hyperopia have no problem clearly viewing distant objects. Hyperopia is normally a lifelong condition, unlike presbyopia which has similar symptoms but which is brought on by age and the reduced elasticity of the lens and decreasing strength of the eye muscles.

Laser eye clinics with the most advanced technology are now able to successfully correct higher hyperopic prescriptions than was possible even a few years ago, but many clinics still lack the technology to help patients with prescriptions at or above

the +5 range whereas St James Laser Vision may be able to help patients with very high prescriptions to have their hyperopia corrected and end their dependence on glasses and contact lenses.

Astigmatism

Astigmatism is an eye condition arising from the cornea being slightly oval shaped which affects the patient's clarity of vision and ability to focus on objects. In shortsighted and longsighted patients, the shape of the cornea results in the focal point being either in front of or behind the retina resulting in blurred vision. When patients have astigmatism there is the, possibly additional, problem that there is more than one focal point being created due to the existence of two curvature planes in the cornea. This duplication results in blurred vision which can cause squinting, eye fatigue and headaches in patients.

Laser eye surgery is very effective at curing astigmatism either on its own or alongside myopia and hyperopia. The cornea is reshaped to provide a single, correct curvature which results in the focal point being on the retina and restoring visual acuity.

Presbyopia

Unfortunately, the eyes, like the rest of the body are not immune to the effects of age. People usually start to become aware of the effects of presbyopia between the ages of 40 to 50 and will start to struggle reading books and newspapers, particularly in dim lighting. The strain of trying to focus on near objects can cause headaches and patients may find themselves becoming increasingly dependent on reading glasses. Age reduces the elasticity of the lens and this may be compounded by decreasing strength in the eye muscles.

Our Laser Blended Vision procedure offers an effective solution to presbyopia which isn't available in high street clinics. Our advanced laser technology allows us to remedy the affects of age on the eyes by varying the focal points in each eye to optimize vision in one eye for near to middle distance visual acuity whilst the other eye retains the ability to focus well on middle to distance objects. The brain very quickly adjusts to this, allowing patients to end their dependence on reading glasses and bifocals, without losing their ability to view distant objects.

St James Laser Vision is the only clinic outside of London to be able to offer this procedure.