

Chapter 7

Other Laser Surgeries

What are some other laser surgery options?

Although LASIK has virtually supplanted other refractive surgery procedures that involve the use of a laser, there are still cases in which another procedure may be appropriate. As we have pointed out before, the more you know about refractive vision correction procedures, the more comfortable you will be in making a decision with respect to your own surgery. In addition, should you choose one of these less popular procedures, be aware that Dr. Chynn is fully capable in performing each and every one of them. You will be under the care of the best-trained surgeons in New York City!

IntraLASIK®

A new development known as the Intralase™ FS Laser keratome has been very successful in accurately and precisely cutting very thin LASIK flaps of uniform thickness. Thin flaps are useful for treating patients who require a high degree of refractive correction because a thinner flap allows for more ablation of tissue. Initial results so far show that IntraLASIK® produces comparable results in terms of post-operative visual acuity as that ex-

Laser Vision Surgery

perienced after conventional LASIK, which uses a mechanical keratome.

Although the incidence of flap complications is slightly reduced by cutting a flap with an Intralase laser, problems such as flap stride causing double vision or traumatic flap dislocations may occur because the flap is still being cut.

This is in contrast to LASEK or epi-LASIK which, by eliminating the flap itself, also totally eliminates all flap-related complications. This has been shown in many studies including those published by Dr. Chynn to be responsible for the majority of complications.

Laser Thermal Keratoplasty (LTK)

LTK involves a Holmium laser instead of an excimer laser. The Holmium laser is a hot laser that uses *infrared light* and heat to shrink the peripheral area of the cornea and steepen the shape of the cornea to treat hyperopia. **Conductive Keratoplasty** is a similar procedure that uses *radiofrequency* energy instead of a Holmium laser. Studies show that there is a tendency of the shrunken tissue to heal itself and return to its previous condition. Such regression can usually be retreated within a few months, but it is a major drawback of this procedure that does not occur with LASIK or LASEK.