

## **Subject: Bladeless technology and blade technology**

Hello,

I had a laser eye consultation at your solihull branch on 5/2/2009. I am considering having laser eye surgery. However, I am confused about whether to go for surgery in which the flap is created with a blade or with a laser.

I have visited the Focus Laser Clinic website and a Mr. Allamby FRCS FRCOphth one of their surgeons stated:

'Laser created flaps mean a **safer surgery** as the results are more accurate, so fewer enhancements needed, and the *eye is left stronger*.'

'We know that **flaps cut with a blade do not fully heal and can be lifted up surgically even many years later. They are thicker and cut deeper into the cornea.** However laser flaps are thinner and leave the eye stronger afterwards.'

At Accuvision you create the flap with a blade. In light of the above quotes will that mean that the flap created with the blade will not fully heal?

Will the surgeon cut deeper into the cornea than a surgeon using a laser for flap creation?

Is it true that laser created flaps are thinner than blade created ones and leave the eye stronger afterwards?

It is stated on the Centre For Sight (London) website that when a blade is used:

'the blade cuts deeper in the cornea in the periphery, severing nerve bundles that are deeper in the eye.'

and

'The Intralase flap is the same depth all the way across and avoids these bundles.'

Is the above true? Will nerve bundles be severed by the blade surgery you provide? If so what impact will this have on the health of the eye/in terms of side effects?

Please could you answer my questions?

Thank you  
Farooq Hussain  
Birmingham

## **Subject: Bladeless technology and blade technology**

Dear Farooq

Thank you for your email concerning bladeless technology and blade technology. As you can imagine information provided on different websites may well offer conflicting views and unfortunately David Allamby of Focus Laser Clinics is a classic example of someone who spreads mis-

information about laser eye surgery procedures in order to create unnecessary concern and doubt in people seeking a solution to their visual problems through laser eye surgery.

You have to ask yourself the question “why does Mr Allamby reject the creation of flaps using a microkeratome blade as you detail below but then offer blade flap creation using a microkeratome to all his patients??”

Is it because he wants his patients to trade up to the more expensive bladeless technology where he can charge more or is it because he cannot create an ultra thin flap (under 100 microns) with a microkeratome?

You have to remember that the laser eye surgery procedure involves two key components; the technology used AND the clinical team in charge of the treatment.

Accuvision use the most advanced laser technology from Wavelight industries so it is able to achieve vision correction safely and because of the laser technology, removes the minimal amount of corneal tissue to achieve the right correction, unlike other lasers.

You may also be interested to know that Accuvision were awarded the accolade of ‘Global Ambassador of the year’ by Wavelight Technologies last month for the pioneering work that has been undertaken by Accuvision in recent years. No other clinic using Wavelight technology in the UK can claim this.

Our highly experienced surgeons ensure that LASIK procedures performed at Accuvision incorporate sub 100 micron thin flap technology. This is achieved using a highly sophisticated, precision engineered, fully automated device for creating predictable sub 100 micron flaps. This specialised instrument is called a microkeratome.

Currently [our results](#) through AccuWave™ are superior to published Femtosecond (Intralase™) results. We believe that there are many other good reasons for continuing to use the microkeratome blade for flap creation as it continues to offer the very best outcome for all our patients.

- Flap creation with a precision microkeratome in **experienced** hands is quicker and less stressful on the eye than other methods.
- Flap tolerances with modern mechanical microkeratomes are equal if not better than laser created flaps under the guidance of highly skilled and experienced surgeons that you will meet at Accuvision.
- The flap can be separated very easily with the microkeratome, prior to the laser procedure because it is not left 'sticky' from any lasering process and therefore less prone to becoming damaged or torn.
- The healing times for microkeratome flaps are the same as laser created flaps (even though this is sometimes put forward as a benefit of laser created flaps).
- The refractive outcome of a microkeratome flap is just the same as a laser created flap. Under or over correction is still possible using a laser.

- The chances of post-op infection are the same for microkeratome created flaps as they are for laser created flaps.
- There are less reports of transient light sensitivity with microkeratome created flaps.
- We do not charge a separate additional cost for the creation of a microkeratome flap (that gives the same, if not better outcome for your vision) than a laser created flap which can cost an additional £250 - £350 per eye.

The fact is that Accuvision also offer a bladeless, 'no flap' laser eye surgery procedure called trans-epithelial LASIK. This very safe and innovative procedure uses the laser to prepare the eye for the vision correction treatment by smoothing the surface of the cornea using the laser, prior to the laser treatment taking place. A bandage contact lens is applied after surgery and the 'epithelium layer' that was removed from the surface grows back quicker in just a few days to leave the corrected eye with no flap at all.

This procedure is recommended for those people with thin corneas or those people who play contact sports where there may be a chance of the flap being dislodged during play.

I very much hope I have answered the questions that have been raised by your further investigations into laser eye surgery.

Ultimately Farooq, you have to ask yourself the question, " who do I trust with my future vision?" Many thousands have answered "Accuvision" and our testimonials over the last seven years are indeed a testament to a consistent delivery of outstanding outcomes for our patients. Please take time to read some of them.

Yours sincerely,

John Andrews



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