



Statistics

(Source: *The Comprehensive Report on Global Refractive Surgery Market, December 2008, Market Scope*)

- Number of LVC procedures performed world wide through 2008: **31.5 million**
- Number of LVC procedures in the U.S. through 2008: **13.3 million**
- Number of U.S. surgeons reported in Q2-2008 who performed refractive surgery: **3,760**
- Number of laser centers world wide, 2008: **4,123**
- Number of laser centers in the U.S., 2008: **1,206**
- Number of U.S. refractive procedures referred by an optometrist Q1-Q3 2008: **approximately 126,660**

Milestones in Laser Vision Correction

(Sources: *Alcon, Inc., VISX, Inc., and "Laser Vision Breakthrough" by S. Brint, D. Kennedy & C. Kuypers-Denlinger*)

Researchers have been exploring surgical techniques to treat refractive errors for more than a century. LASIK is the culmination of that work.

- 1975** First excimer laser is produced. It is known for its precision and was used by IBM to etch circuits into computer chips.
- 1983** Scientists explore use of excimer laser on corneal tissue. It was discovered that the excimer laser could remove corneal tissue without affecting the area outside of the target zone.
- 1985** German ophthalmologist uses excimer laser for first time on human eyes.
- 1988** U.S. surgeon uses excimer laser to correct refractive error on a normal sighted eye during FDA clinical trials.
- 1990** An Italian ophthalmologist combines the microkeratome and the excimer laser to create LASIK. He used a microkeratome to create a flap of corneal tissue and the laser to reshape the tissue of an inner layer of the cornea.
- 1991** First LASIK performed on a sighted eye for FDA clinical trials.
- 1994** TLC Laser Eye Centers celebrates grand opening of first center in Windsor, Ontario.
- 1995** FDA approves first excimer laser for PRK (Photorefractive Keratectomy).
- 1999** FDA approves first excimer laser for LASIK (Laser-In-Situ Keratomileusis). Millionth laser vision correction procedure completed in the United States. Tiger Woods has LASIK at TLC Rockville. FDA approved first "flying spot" laser.
- 2001** LASIK is the most common elective surgical procedure in the United States.
- 2002** FDA approves first customized wavefront-guided laser eye surgery application.
- 2003** CustomLASIK becomes widely available in the United States.
- 2004** TLC Laser Eye Centers celebrates 10 year anniversary. FDA approves Custom LASIK for hyperopia. U.S. Navy study finds better outcomes with CustomLASIK than with traditional LASIK.
- 2005** 10 year anniversary of the excimer laser. TLC Vision performs their 1.5 millionth laser vision correction procedure. FDA approves Iris registration technology for use in LASIK surgery. TLC Vision enters the value-priced consumer market through LASIK Select value brand centers. TLC Vision acquires TruVision, a leading managed care contractor for elective healthcare services.