

# LASER EYE SURGERY

Laser eye surgery is used to treat short sightedness, astigmatism, and small degrees of long sightedness.

People who require glasses or contact lenses for distance vision may have this treatment, and may become much less dependent on optical correction, or in many cases, not require glasses or contact lenses at all.

Laser eye treatment will not usually replace reading glasses.

The treatment involves reshaping the surface of the front of the eye. This is achieved with an instrument called an Excimer laser.

Because it is a surgical procedure, there are some inherent risks, although these are small. Only a careful examination by an ophthalmologist who carries out this treatment, and a thorough discussion of the treatment possibilities and associated risks, can allow patients to make an informed decision.

The first laser eye treatments in Australia were done in 1993 in Melbourne and Sydney. Dr Downie was one of the first ophthalmologists to carry out this treatment in Australia.

In 1998 an Excimer laser was installed at The Eye Hospital.

The Eye Hospital has now installed the latest generation laser which allows a wider range of treatments.

Patients do not need to travel out of Tasmania for laser eye surgery.

A detailed information package is available for patients who wish to consider this treatment. The next step after that would be to have a consultation with Dr Downie to discuss the procedure. Examination and discussion provides the knowledge to allow patients to make an informed decision.

The approach of The Eye Hospital to this procedure is to treat it as surgical operation.

The laser is installed in The Eye Hospital operating theatre. Patients are changed into operating theatre attire and full sterile precautions are taken.

The Eye Hospital does a limited amount of promotion and advertising but does not make claims which cannot be substantiated. A careful, considered and conservative approach is taken.