

Small Incision Lenticule Extraction (SMILE): The Revolutionary Laser Eye Surgery



Small Incision Lenticule Extraction (SMILE): Principles, Techniques, Complication Management, and Future Concepts by James Bender

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

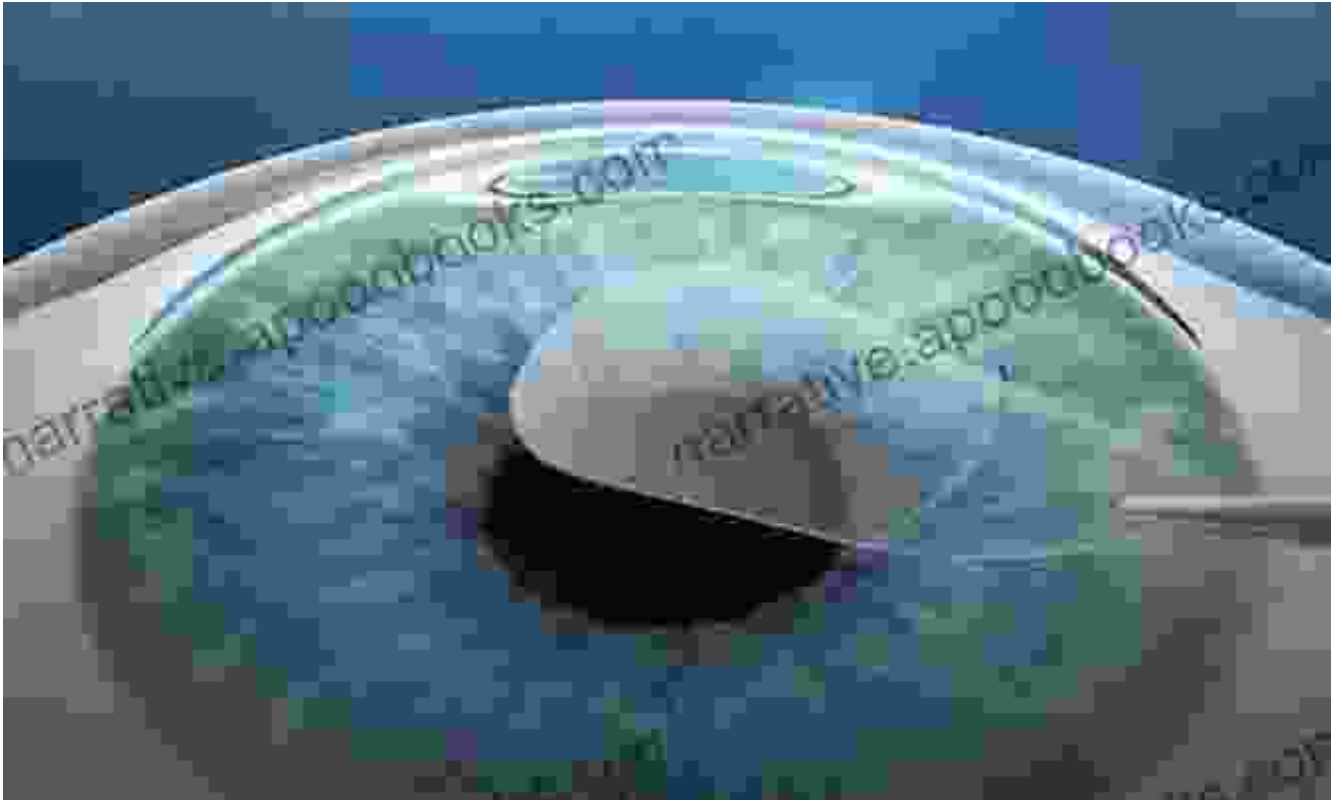
Language : English
File size : 13392 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 272 pages



Are you tired of wearing glasses or contact lenses? Do you dream of clear, crisp vision without the hassle of corrective eyewear? If so, Small Incision Lenticule Extraction (SMILE) laser eye surgery may be the perfect solution for you.

What is SMILE laser eye surgery?

SMILE is a bladeless laser eye surgery procedure that uses a femtosecond laser to create a small incision in the cornea and extract a thin, disc-shaped piece of tissue called the lenticule. This lenticule removal reshapes the cornea, correcting refractive errors such as nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism.



Benefits of SMILE laser eye surgery

SMILE laser eye surgery offers several advantages over other refractive procedures, including:

- **Minimally invasive:** SMILE only requires a small incision, which means less discomfort and a faster recovery time.
- **Bladeless:** The femtosecond laser used in SMILE eliminates the need for a surgical blade, reducing the risk of complications.
- **Preserves corneal strength:** SMILE does not create a flap in the cornea, which can weaken the eye. This makes SMILE a safer option for patients with thin corneas or who engage in contact sports.
- **Quick and painless:** SMILE typically takes less than 15 minutes to perform and is virtually painless.

- **Fast visual recovery:** Most patients experience clear vision within 24 hours after SMILE surgery.

Risks of SMILE laser eye surgery

As with any surgical procedure, there are some risks associated with SMILE laser eye surgery, including:

- **Dry eye:** SMILE can temporarily cause dry eye, which can be treated with artificial tears.
- **Glare and halos:** Some patients may experience glare or halos around lights, especially at night. This is usually temporary and resolves within a few months.
- **Infection:** As with any surgery, there is a small risk of infection.
- **Undercorrection or overcorrection:** In rare cases, SMILE may not fully correct refractive errors, requiring additional treatment.

Cost of SMILE laser eye surgery

The cost of SMILE laser eye surgery varies depending on the surgeon, the geographic location, and the complexity of the procedure. In the United States, the average cost of SMILE is between \$2,000 and \$3,000 per eye.

Is SMILE laser eye surgery right for you?

SMILE laser eye surgery is a safe and effective option for most people with refractive errors. However, it is important to consult with a qualified ophthalmologist to determine if you are a good candidate for the procedure.

Your ophthalmologist will perform a comprehensive eye exam to assess your overall eye health and determine if you have any conditions that would make SMILE unsuitable. They will also discuss the risks and benefits of the procedure and help you decide if SMILE is the right choice for you.

If you are considering laser eye surgery, SMILE is a minimally invasive, bladeless procedure that offers several advantages over other refractive options. With its quick recovery time, minimal discomfort, and high success rate, SMILE is an excellent choice for patients who want to enjoy clear, crisp vision without the hassle of glasses or contact lenses.

To learn more about SMILE laser eye surgery and find a qualified ophthalmologist near you, visit the American Academy of Ophthalmology website: www.aao.org.



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