

Corneal Reshaping Therapy (Orthokeratology)



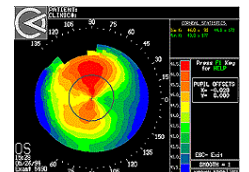
What is Corneal Reshaping Therapy?

Corneal reshaping therapy, also known as corneal refractive therapy and/or orthokeratology, is an advanced non-surgical process for temporarily reducing nearsightedness. In this process, a specially designed corneal reshaping lens is worn at night to temporarily reduce nearsightedness and the need for eyeglasses. The science of corneal reshaping has been around since the 1960's and was originally referred to as orthokeratology. Early orthokeratology was only somewhat successful due to limited lens designs and technology. With the development of new very advanced lens materials and computer design technology, modern corneal reshaping has become a very successful and safe alternative to refractive eye surgery.



How does it work?

The cornea (front surface of your eye) is carefully measured using a keratometer and a corneal topographer. A corneal topographer provides a digital map of the cornea's surface using over 14,000 data points. Unlike traditional contact lenses that are fit to match the surface of the cornea, the multi-curved corneal reshaping lenses are designed by a computer to change the cornea's curvature. The lenses are worn while sleeping to gently reshape the cornea and thus temporarily reduce nearsightedness. During normal waking hours, most individuals experience clear distance vision all day long without wearing any corrective lenses. Wearing a corneal reshaping lens is often compared to wearing a dental retainer to maintain dental alignment after having braces. Uncorrected vision improves after the first night of wear; however, it may take a few weeks to achieve consistent vision that lasts all day long. Due to normal wear, corneal reshaping lenses need to be replaced on an annual basis to maintain optimum vision correction and comfort.



Is it permanent?

No. The effect of corneal reshaping is reversible. In fact, that is one of the many advantages of corneal reshaping. Unlike LASIK surgery that permanently changes the shape of your cornea; the effects of corneal reshaping can be reversed by discontinuing lens wear.

Is it FDA approved?

Yes. Intense research and ongoing clinical testing have shown that corneal reshaping is safe and effective for patients of all ages. Therefore, the FDA has approved overnight wear of corneal reshaping lenses for the temporary reduction of nearsightedness in adults and children.

Who is a candidate?

Individuals of all ages can be fit with corneal reshaping lenses. Patients that have had poor results wearing traditional contact lenses or glasses, individuals active in sports, or individuals that are not interested in having eye surgery are excellent candidates. Currently, those patients with 4 Diopters of nearsightedness or less tend to have the best results. Children are especially successful with corneal reshaping therapy. In fact, some studies have shown that children that are fit with corneal reshaping lenses may actually show a decrease in the progression of their nearsightedness.

How much does it cost?

In most cases, corneal refractive therapy is less than half the cost of LASIK. Fees include a comprehensive eye exam, corneal assessment, fitting and evaluation of corneal reshaping lenses, lens care/handling instruction, one pair of reshaping lenses, and follow-up care for 6 months.

For more information, please contact our office at (248) 427-9620