Comparison chart – Laser procedures since 1987

	Surface techniques				Flap techniques		Lenticule techniques
	PRK	**LASEK**	**TransPRK (single-step)**	**SmartSurf^{ACE}**	**LASIK**	**Femto-LASIK**	**Lenticule Extraction**
In use since	1987	1999	2007	2016	1990	2000	2008
Preliminary exam	An individual preliminary eye examination is required before any laser correction. Consult your doctor for advice.						
Correction range per KRC* recommendations	Nearsightedness to -8D., farsightedness to +3D, astigmatism to 6D.				Nearsightedness to -10D, farsightedness to +4D, astigmatism to 6D.		Nearsightedness to -10D, astigmatism to 6D.
Procedure	1. Mechanical removal of the epithelium. 2. An excimer laser models the corneal surface.	1. Displacement of the epithelium after application of an alcohol solution. 2. An excimer laser models the corneal surface. 3. Repositioning of the loosened epithelium.	1. An excimer laser removes the epithelium and models the corneal surface in one step.	1. An excimer laser removes the epithelium and models the corneal surface in one step. The additional SmartPulse technology gives an even smoother corneal.	1. A microkeratome is used to make a flap (corneal flap). 2. The flap is folded to the side and the excimer laser models the cornea underneath it. 3. The flap is folded back and seals the treated area.	1. A femtosecond laser is used to create a flap. 2. The flap is folded to the side and the excimer laser models the cornea underneath it. 3. The flap is folded back and seals the treated area.	1. A femtosecond laser creates a lenticule (lens-shaped disc) inside the cornea (in the stroma) 2. The same laser then makes a small, minimal invasive cut through which the lenticule is removed.
During the procedure	All laser correction treatments last only a few minutes. You feel no pain during the procedure.						
Characteristics	Surface techniques need no flap and are also suitable for thinner corneas. TransPRK and SmartSurf^{ACE} are touch-free.				You experience better vision right after the treatment.		Lenticule techniques require no flap. Vision may be impaired for about 2 days.
Recovery time	We recommend planning to wait for about a week before resuming work or sport. Visual acuity can vary during the first weeks after treatment.				As a rule, you can get back to work after 1 to 3 days. Check with your doctor before resuming sport.		As a rule you can work again after about 3 days. Check with your doctor before resuming sport.

*http://www.aad.to/krc/qualit.pdf