

Astigmatism

Millions of people around the world of various ages and cultures are affected by the vision problem astigmatism, which is caused by the unequal curvature of the cornea, anterior lens or posterior lens within the eye.

Symptoms

Often a genetically inherited trait, astigmatism will cause various degrees of focusing problems.

Treatment

Many people live with minor astigmatism that do not require any type of treatment. Others with more severe astigmatism can have it corrected by wearing glasses or contact lenses. Visiting an ophthalmologist for a thorough eye exam and a standard refraction test will ensure that you receive the correct lens prescription for your glasses or contacts.

Laser treatments such as LASIK (laser-assisted in situ keratomileusis) or PRK are alternatives for individuals with astigmatism. PRK (photo refractive keratectomy) is a corrective eye surgery that is very similar to LASIK through its use of laser technology to reshape the cornea of the eye. It requires a longer recuperation time.

LASIK and PRK surgery are sometimes not an option for certain astigmatic patients, and it is usually not covered by insurance. The procedures cost about \$2000 per eye.