



# Kelowna Laser Vision

## What is Intralase SBK?

Intralase SBK is two-stage procedure that allows patients a visual recovery time measured in hours rather than days. The procedure begins when a cool-beam laser creates an ultra-thin flap in the cornea (approximately 90 to 110 microns — the thickness of cellophane) and continues with a second laser correcting the patient's refractive error. When treatment is complete, the flap is accurately repositioned by the surgeon, thanks to the flap's beveled edge.

This technique ("SBK" stands for Sub-Bowman's Keratomileusis, the part of the cornea just below the Bowman's layer) prevents almost all the potential complications of a traditional LASIK procedure, including decreased structural integrity of the cornea, an increased incidence of dry eyes and susceptibility to trauma.

Refractive surgeons also report that in the vast majority of patients, Intralase SBK provides a high degree of post-operative comfort and rapid visual recovery.

It was John Marshall, PhD, an expert on corneal biomechanics working at the University of London, England, who found that the thinner, smaller flap created during SBK spells a significant difference in the biomechanics and the wound healing compared to either PRK or LASIK. Given that fewer fibers in the eye are affected — about 50% less in SBK than traditional LASIK — patients tend to experience a much faster recovery.

Intralase SBK is "a quick and painless surgery that combines the safety of PRK with the quick recovery time of LASIK surgery," according to LasikSurgeon.com.

## The Evolution of LVC

