After PRK:
- Right after surgery, your ophthalmologist will place a "bandage" contact lens over your eye to help it heal.
- You will need to have someone drive you home after surgery. You should plan to go home and take a nap or just relax after the surgery.
- Your surgeon may suggest that you take a few days off from work. Also, you should avoid strenuous activity for up to a week after surgery, as this could slow the healing process.
- For two to three days after PRK, you may have some eye pain. Over-the-counter medications usually control the pain. Occasionally, some people may need eye drop pain relievers or other prescription medications to relieve pain. Be sure to call your ophthalmologist if your pain is not helped by over-the-counter medications.
- You will need to use eye drop medications for up to a month or as prescribed by your ophthalmologist. Be sure to follow your doctor’s instructions for using this medication to help healing.
- After PRK, you will need to wear sunglasses outside for as long as your doctor tells you. This is because sun exposure can lead to corneal scarring after surgery, causing vision problems.

At first, your vision will be blurry after PRK. Over 3-5 days, as you heal, your vision will gradually improve. Keep in mind it may take a month or longer to achieve your best vision.

What are the risks of PRK?
- Like any surgery, PRK carries risks of problems or complications you should consider. These include:
  - glare and halos around lights, particularly at night
  - warping of the cornea
  - cloudiness of the cornea (called corneal haze)
  - corneal infection

Also, with PRK, your pupils may end up being undercorrected or overcorrected. These problems usually are not felt by the patient, but are adjusted for distance vision. The brain learns to adapt so that the nearsighted eye is adjusted for distance vision. The brain learns to adapt so that the nearsighted eye is adjusted for distance vision. The other eye is left slightly nearsighted and the other eye sees distant objects. Monovision is not recommended with contact lenses first. To help with presbyopia, some people have PRK to get monovision. This means one eye is slightly nearsighted and the other eye is adjusted for distance vision. The brain learns to adapt so that the nearsighted eye is used for reading, while the other eye sees distant objects. If you have any questions about your eyes or your vision, speak with your ophthalmologist. He or she is committed to protecting your sight.

Vision after PRK
About 9 out of 10 people (90%) who have PRK end up with 20/40 vision or better without glasses or contact lenses.

For two to three days after PRK, you may see some eye pain. Over-the-counter medicines usually control the pain. Keep in mind it may take a month or longer to achieve your best vision.

Summary
PRK is a type of refractive surgery. With this outpatient procedure, a laser is used to reshape your cornea, improving how light rays are focused in the eye.

PRK is used to treat myopia (nearsightedness), hyperopia (farsightedness) and astigmatism. It cannot correct presbyopia, the normal loss of close-up vision that comes with age. However, some people have PRK to correct presbyopia. This allows them to use one eye for close vision and the other for seeing distant objects.

People who cannot have LASIK because their eyes are dry or their corneas are thin may have PRK to correct vision.

If you have any questions about your eyes or your vision, speak with your ophthalmologist. He or she is committed to protecting your sight.
The American Academy of Ophthalmology is the world’s largest association of eye physicians and surgeons. A global community of 32,000 medical doctors, we protect sight for our patients and the public. For more information, visit www.aao.org.

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