We have performed surgical vision correction since 1993 and treated more than 30,000 patients. We continuously invest in the latest laser technologies and diagnostic tools to provide the highest precision and safety standards for our patients. This is why we are the first clinic in Southern California to use Z-LASIK, the best and safest vision correction procedure available today. And we attach particular importance to providing competent and comprehensive advice, highest quality standards in planning and performing the surgery, and meticulous aftercare. That’s why Dr. Dougherty has become the “doctor’s doctor.” Hundreds of physicians and other healthcare professionals, including other vision correction surgeons, have made Dougherty Laser Vision their choice when it comes to correcting their own eyesight.

Physicians and refractive surgery providers may request customized copies of this leaflet by contacting marketing@ziemergroup.com.
If you are looking for accurate, safe and comfortable laser refractive surgery, **Z-LASIK**® is the procedure of choice for you.

**Z-LASIK** corrects your vision using laser surgery from beginning to end. No scalpel will touch your eyes. The risk of complication is reduced even further as compared to previous techniques. And the quality of post-operative vision is repeatedly reported as excellent.

Have your vision corrected the gentle way and benefit from the most innovative technology for laser eye surgery available today.

The experience gained from **Z-LASIK** treatments shows that the vast majority of patients
- did not find the treatment uncomfortable or painful.
- achieved perfect vision without glasses.
- were more satisfied with the outcome than they expected.
- normally saw better than they did before with glasses.
- would choose this method again and recommend it to others.

“The best thing was waking up in the morning after the procedure: Without having to reach for my glasses on the nightstand, I was able to see the dust particles dancing in the sunlight in front of the window.”
Z-LASIK: THE LATEST INNOVATION IN LASER EYE SURGERY

In the past: Blade-assisted flap creation
The traditional LASIK method of laser vision correction requires a mechanical blade to make an incision in the top layer of the corneal tissue prior to the correction itself. Millions of such flaps have already been created using this safe technique. But sometimes the blade produces a rough corneal surface that can affect the quality of vision. Apart from this, many people decide not to undergo this procedure because they are uncomfortable with the idea of their eyes being touched by a scalpel.

Today: Laser-assisted flap creation
For several years now it has been possible to create the flap using a femtosecond laser. This means that no scalpel is involved in the procedure, patients feel more comfortable and the result is even better. Millions of patients have already undergone bladeless laser eye surgery.

The future of bladeless laser surgery: Z-LASIK
Z-LASIK is the most advanced innovation in bladeless surgery. This procedure uses a high-frequency laser with a beam 100 times less intense than that of the first-generation femtosecond lasers. Never before have safety, accuracy and patient comfort in laser eye surgery been so good, as proven by thousands of Z-LASIK treatments.

A microkeratome is a motorized razor-like surgical instrument that incises the flattened cornea to create the flap required for LASIK.

The FEMTO LDV™ Femtosecond Laser uses ultra-short pulses of invisible light to gently separate the layers of the cornea. It is designed to create truly customized flaps, precisely, safely and painlessly.
THE DECISIVE ADVANTAGES

Z-LASIK has an extremely low impact on the eye: The procedure takes only a few minutes. The time the laser is in contact with the patient’s eye is reduced to a minimum.

Z-LASIK is comfortable and painless: The patient’s head is not fixed during the procedure.

Z-LASIK also helps in severe cases: Thanks to the extremely high frequency of the laser pulses, the layers of the cornea are separated with unprecedented precision, creating an ultra-thin flap. Z-LASIK is therefore effective in patients who were previously not candidates for laser surgery. This includes patients with extreme myopia or thin corneas.

No inflammation: The laser energy used for Z-LASIK is about a 100 times lower than with other lasers. This is more gentle to the corneal tissue and prevents temporary inflammatory reactions of the eye.

Fast results: The recovery period is considerably shorter than for other techniques. Patients are usually able to see well within minutes.

Fewer side effects: Z-LASIK enables the surgeon to enlarge the treatment zone. This reduces the risk of undesirable side effects such as dry eyes, deteriorated night vision or halos (rings of light that surround point sources of light).

“During the procedure, I felt a bit dazzled by the surgeon’s work, but it didn’t hurt.”
Step 1: Pre-operative Exam
Your physician performs a series of tests to ensure that your eyes are healthy and suitable for laser vision correction. Then, your eye is electronically measured in detail: Thousands of data points are surveyed to create an accurate three-dimensional image of your eye’s surface. From this image, the computer calculates the laser treatment that will best correct your refractive error.

Step 2: Flap Creation with the FEMTO LDV Femtosecond Laser
A few minutes before the laser treatment, you are given anaesthetic eye drops. Next, your eye is prepared for the correction itself by creating the corneal flap: The top layer of the cornea (approx. 0.1 mm thin) is separated with the laser and folded back.

Step 3: Corneal Correction
Now the curvature of the cornea is reshaped according to the desired refraction. An excimer laser ablates corneal tissue within seconds and precisely to the hundredth of a millimeter. This procedure is performed inside the cornea; the outer, very sensitive layers of the cornea are not touched by the laser. Finally, the treated area is recovered with the flap that reattaches. The whole procedure takes only a couple of minutes. Immediately after treatment, you can open and close your eye normally.

Step 4: Easy Aftercare
If necessary, your operative eye is protected with a contact lens for one day. Special eye drops promote healing. During the first few hours after the procedure, you should not rub your eyes. You should also avoid contact sports (football, basketball, etc.) and hot tubs and swimming pools for a couple of weeks. There are no visible traces of surgery on the eye.

“I felt a bit queasy in the beginning. But then the procedure went so quick and painlessly that I was completely relaxed and hardly noticed it.”
Z-LASIK is suitable for correcting the following refractive errors:

- **Myopia:**
  Distant objects appear blurred.

- **Hyperopia:**
  Closed objects appear blurred.

- **Astigmatism:**
  Objects appear distorted at all distances.

Just as any other surgical procedure, Z-LASIK may have side effects.

For advice and guidance concerning these side effects please consult with your ophthalmologist.

“When a friend drove me home after the procedure, I could already read the licence plate on the car driving ahead of us.”