Multifocal IOLs can be a good option for post-LASIK patients  
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Multifocal intraocular lens (IOL) implants are a great option for cataract patients who desire more freedom from glasses. The optics and design of the implant allows patients to enjoy clear vision at distance, intermediate, and near.

Post refractive surgery patients can be some of the best patients for a multifocal IOL because they are motivated to stay out of glasses. Monofocal IOLs can leave patients partially dependent on glasses, which is dissatisfying for many. If a post-LASIK patient is highly motivated to select a multifocal IOL and they are a good candidate, it can be a great option.

Determining a good candidate for a multifocal IOL after LASIK can be quite easy. One doctor suggests choosing patients with myopic LASIK (not hyperopic) up to -6.00D with good post-LASIK vision, no ocular surface disease, and corneal higher order aberrations less than 0.4 microns.¹

Another study found that the change in asphericity caused by myopic LASIK could potentially benefit from an aspherical multifocal IOL.² Most studies do not recommend multifocal IOLs for hyperopic post-LASIK patients.

Corneal irregularity and scarring can also reduce patient success with a multifocal IOL, so take extra caution when dealing with these patients. Also, patients with severe dry eye or other tear/cornea issues may not be considered good candidates. These issues can interfere with the optical performance of multifocal IOLs.³

The future of multifocal IOLs is exciting; evolving changes with lens designs continue to improve visual performance. Advances with LASIK, such as the use of femtosecond lasers to create the LASIK flap, may help to reduce corneal aberrations. Multifocal IOLs can be a great option for post-LASIK patients if they are found to be good candidates. After all, they had refractive surgery in the first place to reduce their dependency on glasses!

References:

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