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(2) steepen the central cornea to correct  
(3) farsightedness. And in astigmatism, we're  
(4) flattening one meridian so that the cornea which was  
(5) shaped more like a football can now be shaped more  
(6) like a basketball.

(7) **MS. MURPHY-STARK:** Doctor, what are some  
(8) of the risks associated with the procedure and how  
(9) do you minimize them?

(10) **DR. NEVYAS-WALLACE:** Well, the first  
(11) risk that we worry about anywhere in the body is the  
(12) risk of infection. But realize, Pat, that you stand  
(13) a greater chance of getting an infection from  
(14) wearing contact lenses than with LASIK. The other  
(15) risks that we worry about are glaring halo symptoms.  
(16) Now, I tell everyone to expect that in the first  
(17) week, but usually it goes away after the first week.  
(18) If it somehow doesn't, there are drops we can use  
(19) that will bring the pupils a little smaller and a  
(20) person can use those for night driving until that  
(21) symptom goes away. The other risk, if you could  
(22) call that, is the risk that either the nearsighted  
(23) or the astigmatism could be a little over-corrected  
(24) or little under-corrected. If that happens, what we  
(25) do is we lift the flap and do a little bit more

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(2) lasering to fine tune just to bring that person to  
(3) exactly where he wants to be.

(4) Now, to minimize those risks, well, the  
(5) number 1 to minimize them, of course, is that the  
(6) surgery be intimately familiar with the procedure  
(7) and with the technology. You want somebody with  
(8) experience. Also to minimize them, especially the  
(9) risk of infection, you want a sterile operating  
(10) room. Now, that may sound like a given, but  
(11) sometimes the surgery is done in a non-sterile  
(12) condition, sometimes in a carpeted room in an office  
(13) rather than a real operating room. The other thing  
(14) that I think is important is a special particle-free  
(15) environment because you really don't want particles  
(16) under that flap.

(17) **MS. MURPHY-STARK:** Now, along with this  
(18) technology that is being used, how important still,  
(19) though, are the surgeon's hands?

(20) **DR. NEVYAS-WALLACE:** Oh, the surgeon's  
(21) hands are crucial. The technology is only the tool.  
(22) It's the surgeon who does the surgery. You could be  
(23) a skier and have the best skis in the world, but if  
(24) you don't actually know how to ski, you could have a  
(25) very disappointing result.

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(2) **MS. MURPHY-STARK:** Thank you, Doctor.  
(3) Joining us now is Andrew Kessler, an  
(4) attorney from Pennsylvania and a LASIK patient.

(5) Andrew, welcome to the show.

(6) **MR. KESSLER:** Thank you, Pat.

(7) **MS. MURPHY-STARK:** Why did you decide to  
(8) have a LASIK procedure.

(9) **MR. KESSLER:** Well, I lead a relatively  
(10) active lifestyle. In addition to being a father,  
(11) I'm a skier and a tennis player and I like to spend,  
(12) obviously, skiing a lot of times outdoors. Coming  
(13) indoors from outdoors in the winter, anyone who  
(14) wears glasses has had the experience of having the  
(15) condensation on their glasses. And just being able  
(16) to be in the ocean doing the things that I want to  
(17) do, glasses were an inconvenience.

(18) **MS. MURPHY-STARK:** Now, with any  
(19) surgery, we all know that there is some risk  
(20) involved. When you approach this, how did you weigh  
(21) the benefits against the risk?

(22) **MR. KESSLER:** Well, obviously, what I  
(23) was looking at was the opportunity to not have to  
(24) wear glasses anymore. But primarily, I looked at  
(25) all the potential operations that were available and

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(2) I've been looking for a lot of years. I had the  
(3) benefit of being the son of an optometrist. So for  
(4) about the last 15 years, I've been looking for some  
(5) way to avoid wearing my glasses. At some point, it  
(6) was made known to me that there was this LASIK  
(7) procedure which has a very high level of success and  
(8) for which I was a very good candidate.

(9) **MS. MURPHY-STARK:** Now, after being  
(10) through this procedure, what do you think?

(11) **MR. KESSLER:** I'm ecstatic. I'm also  
(12) grateful to Dr. Nevyas-Wallace. Since I had the  
(13) procedure, I am corrected vision free.

(14) **MS. MURPHY-STARK:** So very happy with  
(15) the procedure?

(16) **MR. KESSLER:** I am thrilled.

(17) **MS. MURPHY-STARK:** Doctor, in what other  
(18) ways have you seen how this surgery can really help  
(19) people's lives?

(20) **DR. NEVYAS-WALLACE:** Well, one thing I  
(21) hear over and over again from parents is that they  
(22) want to be able to see where their children are in a  
(23) swimming pool and in the ocean, and that when they  
(24) come out of the ocean, they'd like to be able to  
(25) find their family. I've heard from people who while