



# A Real Game Changer: The *iFS* Advanced Femtosecond Laser

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Dr. Stephen C. Coleman has been performing LASIK for more than 16 years. "In my estimation, there have been only three true 'game changers' in all that time," he says: "Eye tracking, custom ablation profiles and now the *iFS* Advanced Femtosecond Laser from Abbott Medical Optics Inc." According to Dr. Coleman, going from the *IntraLase* FS60 Laser to the *iFS* Laser has felt more like a new platform than a simple upgrade. "The *iFS* Laser represents an entirely new way to create LASIK flaps," he says.

## Flexibility

The Albuquerque, NM, surgeon praises the fact that the *iFS* Laser offers better optics, a phenomenal dual interface for the surgeon and technician, and the ability to make adjustments to flap parameters on the fly. "You have complete freedom

to customize the flap, much like we can customize the ablation profile with **Advanced CustomVue** Technology," he says. With the *iFS* Laser, surgeons can adjust the flap shape, architecture, depth, diameter, hinge size and location, and more. "You can build a flap specifically for a patient's eye," says Dr. Coleman.

While he doesn't necessarily make a custom flap for every case, the *iFS* Laser has allowed him to broaden his patient pool. "I normally make a relatively small-diameter flap with 105° inverted sidecuts," he says. "But if I decide that a patient needs a larger diameter flap with a nasal hinge to be successful, I can do that."

## Safety

As femtosecond laser technology has evolved, Dr. Coleman says he has seen diffuse lamellar keratitis (DLK), buttonholes, epithelial breakthroughs, and aborted cases virtually disappear. Recently a laser technician asked him

why he stopped bringing patients back to the laser room on Saturday mornings, when he's seeing Friday LASIK patients for their 1-day follow-ups. "I realized that, since I started using the *iFS* Laser, I haven't had to bring a single patient back to the laser room to reposition a flap or irrigate some inflammation," he says. In fact, Dr. Coleman says the new laser has minimized inflammation. He recently reduced his steroid regimen from q.i.d. for 2 weeks to a 4-day rapid taper. "The sidecut architecture helps the flap re-position perfectly and with decreased suction time and laser energy, it heals rapidly, so we just don't need all the steroids on the eye anymore."

## Speed

In addition, the *iFS* Laser is more than double the speed of its predecessor. The concept of going faster definitely resonates with anxious patients, but what Dr. Coleman values most is the impact of speed on outcomes. "The length of time that a keratome →



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(either mechanical or laser) is on the eye is the critical period when complications can occur and the prognosis for surgery can change—and I never take that for granted,” he says. “Because of its speed, the *iFS* Laser produces smoother beds, greater patient comfort, quieter eyes postoperatively, and faster visual recovery. Those are very real clinical advantages.”

## Confidence

Another favorite upgrade feature is the new dual interface. “I love it,” says Dr. Coleman. “Once we start the procedure, the tech is able to monitor the flap parameters and data on a separate screen and I see only what is important to me—a huge beautiful picture of the flap being created.”

Successful LASIK surgery depends in equal measure on the technology, the patient, and the surgeon, Dr. Coleman believes. “With the *iFS* Laser, I know that I can rely on the accuracy and predictability of the technology,” he says. “It takes a huge burden off my shoulders.” ■



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—Stephen Coleman, MD, Coleman Vision, Albuquerque, NM

The *IntraLase FS* and *iFS* Laser Systems are ophthalmic surgical lasers indicated for use in patients undergoing surgery or treatment requiring the initial lamellar resection of the cornea. Contraindications may include cornea edema, glaucoma, and keratoconus. Risks and complications may include corneal pain, flap tearing, and epithelial ingrowth. Patients are requested to consult with their eye care professional for a complete listing of the contraindications and risks. U.S. Federal Law restricts this device to sale, distribution, and use by or on the order of a physician or other licensed eye care professional.

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