

April 25th, 2008 was a historic day for the Food and Drug Administration. On that day, a number of medical doctors, optometrists, psychologists, and injured patients presented at a Special Hearing of the Ophthalmic Devices Panel, responsible for the approval of medical devices for ophthalmic use in the United States. The subject of the hearing was post-LASIK quality of life, depression, and suicide.

Insiders acquainted with the FDA approval process for medical devices were horrified as one by one, the presenters alleged deception by individual LASIK surgeons, cover ups perpetrated by medical device manufacturers, and corruption at the level of the FDA itself. Compelling cases were made for massive violations of federal law, the failure of the FDA to monitor surgical facilities for LASIK, and deliberate misclassification of severe complications as simple side-effects, as a means of securing premature FDA approval of the excimer laser.

The mass media attended and filmed the April 25th hearing. Nevertheless, the substance of the above allegations went mostly unreported, despite the presentation of four completed post-LASIK suicides, including excerpts from two actual suicide notes (these presentations are included in the videos at right). The American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (ASCRS) asserted that individuals with psychological issues post-LASIK certainly had psychological issues all along. To anyone without a preconceived bias, the ASCRS position seemed indefensible. Still, the mass media focused on a 95% percent satisfaction rate, a statistic put forward by ASCRS, but not yet published in their own peer-reviewed literature. Why?

Fortunately, the entire event was captured on video. Moreover, FDA transcripts are considered government documents, and as such, are not subject to copyright laws. Beyond the obviously sad association between severe LASIK complications, depression, suicide, and medical deception and corruption, the April 25th Special Hearing of the Ophthalmic Devices Panel must be regarded as one of the most interesting sociological dramas in modern medicine, one which is still being played out. This site chronicles the events leading up the meeting, including press releases by the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (see [here](#) and [here](#)), videos by presenters on both sides, and the reaction of the American press.

Judge for yourself the significance of these events, and come to your own conclusions about LASIK, the industry behind it, and the FDA.