

Why Top Refractive Surgeons Choose the NAVEX Quest

Drs. Shamik Bafna, Nancy Tanchel, and Gerald Walman recently shared their experience and pearls for using Nidek's evolutionary customized refractive surgery platform.

What attracted you to the NAVEX Quest?

DR. BAFNA: We already had the Visx S4 and Allegretto 400 when we purchased a Nidek three years ago. The main reason for purchasing the NAVEX Quest was its ability to offer topography-guided treatments, which we knew would separate us from our competition.

DR. WALMAN: Over the years, I've been certified and had experience with many different platforms, including Nidek, Visx, and Technolas. Recently, when I went into practice on my own, I purchased the Nidek because I liked the clinical results, the ergonomics, and the fact that there is no click-fee.

Has the NAVEX Quest delivered?

DR. BAFNA: Yes. The NAVEX Quest promised excellent clinical outcomes, a topo-guided platform, and no click fees, and it has delivered in all of those ways.

DR. WALMAN: I consider myself an independent thinker, and I value the independence from click fees that

the Nidek platform offers. I have freedom to use the laser the way I clinically want to use it. Of course, it's not just that: I have had excellent clinical results from the start of my career, when I was going up to Canada and doing high volumes of LASIK procedures up with the Nidek.

Is the lack of a click fee important?

DR. TANCHEL: Absolutely. And companies that charge click fees don't let you buy just one at a time; you have to buy a package up front, so you're putting in all this money and hoping the patients are going to show up.

DR. WALMAN: The lack of a click fee means that I can invite my colleagues, if they have a patient with suboptimal refractive outcomes from cataract surgery, to come in to our practice for a reasonable amount and do a procedure on our machine.

DR. BAFNA: If a patient has a small refractive error, for example after placing a presbyopic inlay, we don't have to worry about the economics of improving those outcomes with another procedure.

Do other factors, such as reliability, positively or negatively impact the economics of the NAVEX Quest?

DR. TANCHEL: The NAVEX Quest is a real work-horse, and more reliable, in my opinion, than the other lasers that are out there. Plus Nidek has one of the great service teams in refractive surgery.

From a clinical standpoint, what are the features that make the NAVEX Quest laser attractive in your practice?

DR. TANCHEL: From the time I started using the Nidek EC-5000, all the way through to OATz and CATz and the latest iterations of the platform, the results have always been excellent and patients have done very well.

DR. WALMAN: Refractive outcomes. The NAVEX consistently gets the results that I and the patients are looking for.

Shamik Bafna, MD, is in private practice at the Clear Choice Custom LASIK Center in Cleveland, OH.

Nancy Tanchel, MD, is medical director of the Liberty Laser Eye Center in Tyson's Corner, VA.

Gerald Walman, MD, is a partner with NVision Eye Centers in Phoenix, AZ.

How does the NAVEX Quest stack up to other technology?

DR. BAFNA: I had LASIK done on my eyes about 15 years ago, and I was a very high myope. Over time I've gradually had a little bit of regression. Two weeks ago, I decided that I was going to have PRK enhancement done over my former LASIK. As I mentioned earlier, I have three platforms available to me: Nidek, Visx, and Allegretto. I chose Nidek. Right now I'm seeing 20/20 out of the eye that I had the enhancement performed on. So that truly speaks to my confidence in the NAVEX Quest.

What pearls can you offer for getting optimum outcomes from this platform?

DR. TANCHEL: When using OATz and CATz, make sure the technician is well trained. Also, don't delegate choosing the scan to sue to somebody other than the physician.

DR. BAFNA: Probably the most important factor is paying attention to the OPD scans. And it's very important to train the technician.

Are you satisfied with results from with OATz and CATz? Do you have any pearls for patient selection?

DR. BAFNA: If the patient falls into the CATz profile, then I proceed with CATz. But if the refractive error is beyond what has been approved for CATz, I go with OATz. The beauty of providing aspheric ablations is that they minimize higher-order aberrations.

DR. WALMAN: With both OATz and CATz, I am very impressed with how few patients have symptoms of problems such as glare or halos.

DR. BAFNA: In terms of our CATz results, 96% of our patients had 20/20 or better, 62% were 20/15 or better, and 100% were were 20/25 or better uncorrected.

DR. TANCHEL: I think it was really powerful that the FDA study that was done with the Nidek topo-guided platform (CATz) showed that no patients lost night vision. In fact, night vision complaints decreased after surgery.

DR. WALMAN: I think it was a 52% reduction in night vision problems.

How good is the data that you get from the OPD-II? Do you compare the OPD data to your manifest cyclo refractions?

DR. BAFNA: I think overall the OPD refraction is excellent. But where it really shines is in looking at the overall astigmatism, both in terms of magnitude as well as direction.

Can you offer any pearls for getting the best possible measurements from the OPD?

DR. TANCHEL: An experienced technician is important. Also, make sure the patient blinks appropriately.

DR. BAFNA: If necessary, I have patients with dry eyes utilize artificial tears so that they have a very good ocular surface. Try to keep the OPD in as dark a room as possible to maximize the overall dilation of the patient's pupil. And then try to relax the patient.

Do you find the Final Fit software easy to use? Does it give you useful information, and allow you adequate control over the ablation profile?

DR. TANCHEL: It does a wonderful job and is easy to use, but I wish there was a wider range of approval for the CATz.

What do you think overall has been the impact of having the NAVEX Quest laser in your practice?

DR. BAFNA: The NAVEX Quest has helped tremendously in terms of growing our refractive practice, because we can offer technology that the other lasers don't have access to. Other lasers can't perform at the same level, which has helped us attract a larger market share in terms of procedural volume. The fact that there are no click fees definitely helps with the overall profitability. The NAVEX has two major advantages: first, from the clinical standpoint, it provides fantastic clinical outcomes; second, from the economic standpoint, not having click fees helps with overall profitability.

DR. WALMAN: The NAVEX Quest—including the availability of topo-guided treatment—has definitely been a boon to our refractive and cataract refractive practice,

DR. TANCHEL: The great clinical results, topo-guided treatments, and no click fees of the NAVEX Quest have made all the difference to our practice.

