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## Flap Tears

### ETIOLOGY AND INCIDENCE OF FLAP TEARS

#### *Femtosecond LASIK*

Flap tears occur with the femtosecond laser mostly during flap dissection rather than during flap creation. Femtosecond-created flaps are more resistant to lifting compared with the microkeratome-created flaps. The risk of tear is even higher with thinner flaps. On occasion, a tear may occur at the hinge, leading to a free flap. Flap tears can also occur during the dissection of flaps with a vertical gas breakthrough (VGB). The incidence of torn flaps is approximately between 0.1% and 0.4% in eyes with femtosecond-assisted flaps; similar percentages are found in eyes treated with microkeratome LASIK.<sup>1,2</sup>

#### *Microkeratome LASIK*

Flap tears can also occur with microkeratome LASIK, and are mainly associated with concomitant complications, such as thin and irregular flaps.