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Change Focus Like You Used To

As eyes age, multiple focusing—shifting from distance to close—gets more difficult. Bifocals can do the correcting. A new alternative is conductive keratoplasty (CK), which uses radio waves to reshape the cornea, often in only one eye. "It sets you up for monovision, with one eye seeing near and one seeing far," says Dr. Susan Taub, chair of the Better Vision Institute. The brain makes the visual adjustment.

About eight in 10 people can adapt to monovision. CK, which promises to be safer than laser surgery and costs less, is done in a doctor's office with eyedrop anesthesia. But most patients need retreatment in three to five years.