

## Consent for Cataract/Lens Surgery

(Must be signed if having either Standard Cataract Surgery or Premium Lens Surgery)

**Introduction:** This information is given to me so that I can make an informed decision about having cataract/lens surgery. I have the right to ask questions about any procedure before agreeing to have it. Except for unusual situations, cataract/lens surgery is indicated only when I cannot function well due to poor eyesight produced by cataract or refractive error. I must remember that the natural lens within my eye, even with a cataract, may have some distinct advantages over an artificial lens. After my doctor has told me that I have a cataract or refractive error, my doctor and I (or my guardian) are the only ones who can determine if and when I should have cataract/lens surgery based on my own visual needs and medical considerations.

**Procedure:** At the onset of the procedure, an anesthesiologist administers light intravenous sedation. The eye is made numb with either drops or, rarely, an anesthetic injection. During surgery, the natural lens is removed by breaking it up into small pieces with a vibrating probe (phacoemulsification). These pieces are gently suctioned out through a fine, hollow tube inserted through a small opening in the eye. After the natural lens is removed, the intraocular lens (IOL) of the selected power is implanted. (The implant is made of plastic, does not reject, and lasts a lifetime.) The incision required to perform this operation is usually self-sealing, but in some cases may require closure with very fine stitches (sutures). After the surgery, several follow-up examinations will be required. During the recovery period eye drops will be used for 4-6 weeks. Most normal activities can be resumed the next day. Usually, vision is stable within 4 weeks and a new eyeglass prescription can be issued then.

**Desired Outcome:** The desired outcome of this procedure is improved vision to enhance my abilities to perform my usual activities of daily living. If I choose Standard Cataract Surgery, I will need glasses to see the results. If instead I choose Premium Lens Surgery, I also hope to reduce my need for glasses.

**Alternatives:** The only alternative to cataract/lens surgery is no surgery. There are no lasers, eye drops, eye exercises, pills, vitamins, herbs, or any other alternative therapies that are effective for cataract/lens treatment. Cataracts and refractive errors may remain stable or get worse over time, and do not get better if left untreated.

**Risks:** The risks include those that may affect vision and those that do not affect vision directly. Although vision is improved in the overwhelming majority of cases, there is a risk that the vision will be unchanged. This is particularly true in cases where the eye has more than one problem such as macular degeneration or glaucoma.

(OVER)

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Risks (continued):** In unusual cases, the vision can be worse after surgery on an extended or permanent basis. Common side effects include but are not limited to floaters, unwanted reflections or glare from the implant, fleeting dark arcs in the side vision, dry eye, or gritty sensation. Less common side effects include intermittent pain, nausea, excessive tearing, changes in pupil size or shape, droopy eyelid, increased nighttime glare and/or halo, or double or ghost images.

**Complications:** Complications may occur with any surgery and may occur weeks, months or even years later. It is possible that my vision could be made worse due to hemorrhage (bleeding), infection, corneal clouding, retained pieces of cataract/lens in the eye, retinal detachment, uncomfortable or painful eye, glaucoma, uveitis (inflammation), misshapen pupil, inability to constrict the pupil or dislocation of the implant. In rare instances, due to limitations in eye measurement and implant calculation formulas, the implant power may be wrong resulting in the need for surgical replacement of the implant. This is particularly true in eyes that have had previous refractive surgery such as RK or LASIK. If needle injection anesthesia is used (rarely), the needle could injure the eye or surrounding structures. Fortunately, many of the possible complications can be managed with further surgery, laser or eye drops.

**Further Treatment:** Additional treatment and/or surgery may be necessary. For example, laser surgery (YAG capsulotomy) may be performed to correct clouding of vision (posterior capsule opacification) due to a thin layer of scar tissue that builds up on the implant. This is a very common consequence of cataract/lens surgery (up to 30% of all cataract/lens surgeries) and is treated with a brief, painless laser procedure.

**Consent:** In signing below I am stating that I have read this informed consent (or it has been read to me) and I understand the basic procedure of cataract/lens surgery, the desired outcome, alternatives, risks, possible complications and the need for further treatment. I understand that the results of surgery in my case cannot be guaranteed and that unforeseen complications can occur with any surgical procedure. Although it is impossible for the doctor to inform me of every possible complication that may occur, the doctor has answered all my questions to my understanding and satisfaction.

I consent to have Cataract/Lens Surgery on my:

Right Eye

Left Eye

Both Eyes

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Patient (Guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness