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GENERAL OPHTHALMIC, CATARACT AND GLAUCOMA SURGERY

Authorization/Consent For Surgical Treatment

Patient's Name _____ **Patient's D.O.B.** _____

1) What problem do I have?

You have a cataract. This is a decrease in the clarity of the lens inside the eye which causes visual blurring. It is most often associated with aging.

2) What can be done?

Your doctor can surgically remove the cataract and replace it with an artificial lens implant. This involves an operation in which the eye is frozen with topical anaesthetics. A small incision is created in the eye through which the cataract is removed. The replacement lens is inserted during the same operation. The procedure is not performed with lasers. Most patients are awake during the surgery, but are given medication to make them comfortable and drowsy.

After the surgery, it is important to protect the eye with glasses or a shield and to avoid strenuous activity for a week. Do not rub the eye. You will use drops in the eye for 4 weeks. Most patients are fully recovered by 4 weeks. At the end of the recovery period, the distance vision may be fine-tuned with glasses. You will require glasses for reading at close range.

3) Do I have to have surgery?

Your cataract will not improve without surgery. Your cataract will slowly progress over several months and cause a gradual decrease in vision. As a cataract is not a disease, delaying surgery will not cause any irreversible damage to your vision. The visual result after surgery for people with a mild cataract is usually the same as for people with denser cataracts. Denser cataracts can be more difficult to remove and in a small number of people can make the surgery more complicated. Many people choose to have surgery when they begin to have difficulty conducting their activities of daily living, such as reading or legal operation of a vehicle. It is entirely a personal decision.

4) Are there any risks?

Removal of a cataract is a surgical procedure that does have risks. These include bleeding, infection, glaucoma and retinal detachment. Other unpredictable events may occur during or after surgery. Although infrequent, if complications occur which cannot be controlled, it is possible that you may permanently lose the vision in the eye. The risk of becoming blind from the surgery is between 1/1000 – 1/100,000. Remember that the eye has many parts that contribute to good vision. It is possible that problems in parts of the eye other than the lens may be accounting for difficulties. If this is the case, cataract surgery may result in only partial, or no improvement in vision. Overall, there is a 95% chance that surgery will improve vision, a 3% chance vision will be unchanged, and a 2% chance vision will be worse than before surgery.

Witness _____ ***Signed*** _____

Date _____ **OR** _____
 (Spouse, Guardian, Nearest Kin)