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## CONSENT FORM FOR LASIK LASER SURGERY

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The following information is intended to help you make an informed decision about having Laser Assisted In-Situ Keratomileusis (LASIK) surgery to correct your vision.

Since it is impossible, within the context of this form, to state all possible risks of any surgery or procedure, this form cannot provide a comprehensive listing of every conceivable problem.

### OVERVIEW OF LASIK

I understand that my diagnosis is myopia with or without astigmatism.

LASIK permanently changes the shape of the cornea. The surgery is performed under topical anaesthetic (drops in the eye). The procedure involves folding back a thin layer of corneal tissue (corneal flap) with a microkeratome (a surgical cutting instrument). A thin layer of corneal tissue is then removed with the light of a laser. The flap is then replaced and bonds back into place, usually without the need of stitches. The removal of thin layers of corneal tissue causes the shape of the cornea to change so that the focusing power of the cornea is altered.

Although the goal of LASIK is to improve the vision to the point of not being dependent on glasses or contact lenses, this result is not guaranteed. Additional procedures, spectacles or contact lenses may still be required to achieve adequate vision.

LASIK does not correct the condition known as **presbyopia**, which occurs in most people between 40 – 50 years of age and may require them to wear reading glasses. If you presently wear reading glasses, it is likely you will still require reading glasses after treatment. If you do not need reading glasses, you may need them at a later age. LASIK surgery will not prevent you from developing naturally occurring eye problems such as glaucoma, cataracts, retinal detachments or degeneration.

### RISKS AND CONTRA-INDICATIONS

These can be divided into two categories:

**1. Non-vision threatening complications:** Many patients may experience some of the following:

- a) Over-correction or under-correction may occur and LASIK surgery may not give you the result you desired. It may be possible or necessary to have additional surgery to fine-tune or enhance the initial result. In the event of an enhancement being required, this further treatment will be conducted at no additional cost. It is possible that your initial result could regress over time. In some, but not all cases, re-treatment, glasses or contact lenses could be effective in correcting vision.
- b) Flap complications, such as thin flap, a complete cap (instead of a flap) or a buttonhole. These are not vision threatening complications. However, the procedure may need to be postponed for several weeks in most cases.
- c) Dry eyes. This is very common after LASIK and is present to some degree in all cases. This is usually a temporary phenomenon and resolves naturally after a few weeks. Occasionally, this can be severe enough to cause discomfort or pain and blurred vision. This may delay recovery of vision by several weeks.
- d) Increased sensitivity to light and decreased vision in dim or artificial light. This may be permanent in rare cases as a result of surgery.
- e) Fluctuation of vision which, in most cases, will resolve without surgical or medical intervention.
- f) Infrequently, patients may experience starburst or halo around lights at night. This effect tends to diminish after the first few months, but some elements can be permanent. Very occasionally patients have severe enough problems to make them feel insecure driving at night.
- g) Loose epithelium or tears during the procedure. This may cause some discomfort during the first 48 hours. This may also result in delayed healing and delayed improvement of vision.

