

## **Informed Consent For Cataract Surgery And/Or Implantation of an Intraocular Lens**

### **PRESBYOPIA AND ALTERNATIVES FOR NEAR VISION AFTER SURGERY**

Patients who have cataracts may have, or will eventually develop, an age-related condition known as presbyopia. Presbyopia is the reason that reading glasses become necessary, typically after age 40, even for people who have excellent distance and near vision without glasses. Presbyopic individuals require bifocals or separate (different prescription) reading glasses in order to see clearly at close range. There are several options available to you to achieve distance and near vision after cataract surgery.

- **GLASSES** You can choose to have a monofocal (single focus) IOL implanted for distance vision and wear separate reading glasses, or have the IOL implanted for near vision and wear separate glasses for distance.
- **MONOVISION** The ophthalmologist could implant IOLs with two different powers, one for near vision, and other for distance vision. This combination of a distance eye and a reading eye is called monovision, and would allow you to read without glasses. It has been employed quite successfully in many contact lens and refractive surgery patients. Your surgeon will discuss and demonstrate this option.
- **MULTIFOCAL IOL** The ophthalmologist could implant a “multifocal” IOL. These IOLs, more recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), provide distance vision AND restore some or all of the focusing (accommodating) ability of the eye. Depending upon the technological features of the IOLs, they may be described as “accommodating,” “apodized diffractive,” or “presbyopia-correcting.” All of these lenses are “multifocal,” meaning they correct for both distance vision and other ranges, such as near or intermediate.
- **NEARVISION CK** A refractive procedure called NearVision CK uses radiofrequency energy to reshape the cornea in order to improve near vision. This procedure is typically performed in one eye, while the other eye remains corrected for distance. It is, therefore, another form of monovision correction.
- **I choose to have near vision after cataract surgery provided by: (Choose one Method above)** \_\_\_\_\_ Patient initials \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Risks of cataract surgery include, but are not limited to:**

1. Complications of removing the natural lens may include hemorrhage (bleeding); rupture of the capsule that supports the IOL; perforation of the eye; clouding of the outer lens of the eye (corneal edema), which can be corrected with a corneal transplant; swelling in the central area of the retina (called cystoid macular edema), which usually improves with time; retained pieces of lens in the eye, which may need to be removed surgically; infection; detachment of the retina, which is definitely an increased risk for highly nearsighted patients, but which can usually be repaired; uncomfortable or painful eye; droopy eyelid; increased astigmatism; glaucoma; and double vision. These and other complications may occur whether or not an IOL is implanted and may result in poor vision, total loss of vision, or even loss of the eye in rare situations. **Additional surgery may be required to treat these complications.**
2. Complications associated with the IOL may include increased night glare and/or halo, double or ghost images, and dislocation of the IOL. Multifocal IOLs may increase the likelihood of these problems. In some instances, corrective lenses or surgical replacement of the IOL may

- be necessary for adequate visual function following cataract surgery.
- 3. Complications associated with local anesthesia injections around the eye include perforation of the eye, destruction of the optic nerve, interference with the circulation of the retina, droopy eyelid, respiratory depression, hypotension, cardiac problems, and in rare situations, brain damage or death.
  - 6. Complications associated with multifocal IOLs. While a multifocal IOL can reduce dependency on glasses, it might result in less sharp vision, which may become worse in dim light or fog. It may also cause some visual side effects such as rings or circles around lights at night. It may be difficult to distinguish an object from a dark background, which will be more noticeable in areas with less light. Driving at night may be affected. If you drive a considerable amount at night, or perform delicate, detailed, "up-close" work requiring closer focus than just reading, a monofocal lens in conjunction with eyeglasses may be a better choice for you. If complications occur at the time of surgery, a monofocal IOL may need to be implanted instead of a multifocal IOL.
  - 7. If an IOL is implanted, it is done by a surgical method. It is intended that the small plastic, silicone, or acrylic IOL will be left in the eye permanently.
  - 8. If complications occur at the time of surgery, the doctor may decide not to implant an IOL in your eye even though you may have given prior permission to do so.
  - 9. Other factors may affect the visual outcome of cataract surgery, including other eye diseases such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration; the power of the IOL; your individual healing ability; and, if certain IOLs are implanted, the function of the ciliary (focusing) muscles in your eyes.
  - 10. The selection of the proper IOL, while based upon sophisticated equipment and computer formulas, is not an exact science. After your eye heals, its visual power may be different from what was predicted by preoperative testing. You may need to wear glasses or contact lenses after surgery to obtain your best vision. Additional surgeries such as IOL exchange, placement of an additional IOL, or refractive laser surgery may be needed if you are not satisfied with your vision after cataract surgery.
  - 11. The results of surgery cannot be guaranteed. If you chose a multifocal IOL, it is possible that not all of the near (and intermediate) focusing ability of your eye will be restored. Additional treatment and/or surgery may be necessary. Regardless of the IOL chosen, you may need laser surgery to correct clouding of vision. At some future time, the IOL implanted in your eye may have to be repositioned, removed surgically, or exchanged for another IOL.
  - 12. If your ophthalmologist has informed you that you have a high degree of hyperopia (farsightedness) and/or that the axial length of your eye is short, your risk for a complication known as nanophthalmic choroidal effusion is increased. This complication could result in difficulties completing the surgery and implanting a lens, or even loss of the eye.
  - 13. If your ophthalmologist has informed you that you have a high degree of myopia (nearsightedness) and/or that the axial length of your eye is long, your risk for a complication called a retinal detachment is increased. Retinal detachments can usually be repaired but may lead to vision loss or blindness.
  - 14. Since only one eye will undergo surgery at a time, you may experience a period of imbalance between the two eyes (anisometropia). This usually cannot be corrected with spectacle glasses because of the marked difference in the prescriptions, so you will either temporarily have to wear a contact lens in the non-operated eye or will function with only one clear eye for distance vision. In the absence of complications, surgery in the second eye can usually be

accomplished within 2 weeks, once the first eye has stabilized.

**PATIENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS**

My ophthalmologist has informed me that if I have Medicare coverage for this cataract surgery, the “presbyopia-correcting” multifocal IOL and associated services for fitting the lens are only considered **partially covered**. I acknowledge that I am responsible for payment of that portion of the charge for the “presbyopia-correcting” multifocal IOL and associated services that exceed the charge for insertion of a conventional, monofocal, IOL or monovision following cataract surgery. My ophthalmologist has informed me about the coverage, deductible, and copayment amounts if a private insurance company is paying for this procedure.

**Patient initials** \_\_\_\_\_

**PATIENT CONSENT**

Cataract surgery, by itself, means the removal of the natural lens of the eye by a surgical technique. In order for an IOL to be implanted in my eye, I understand I must have cataract surgery performed either at the time of the IOL implantation or before IOL implantation. If my cataract was previously removed, I have been informed that my eye is medically acceptable for IOL implantation.

The basic procedures of cataract surgery, the reasons for the type of IOL chosen for me, and the advantages and disadvantages, risks, and possible complications of alternative treatments have been explained to me by my ophthalmologist. Monovision has been discussed with me, and my ophthalmologist has either demonstrated it to me with glasses or contact lenses, or offered to do so. 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 satisfaction.

In signing this informed consent for cataract operation and/or implantation of an IOL, I am stating that I have been offered a copy, I fully understand the possible risks, benefits, and complications of cataract surgery and

- I have read this informed consent \_\_\_\_\_ (**patient initials**)
- The consent form was read to me by \_\_\_\_\_ (**name**).

**Multifocal IOL Option**

I wish to have a cataract operation with a \_\_\_\_\_ multifocal IOL implant  
(state name of implant) on my \_\_\_\_\_ (state “right” or “left”) eye.

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**Patient (or person authorized to sign for patient)**

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**Date**

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**Physician Signature**

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**Date**