



Informed Consent for Cataract Surgery  
and/or Implantation of an Intra-ocular Lens

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

This information is given to you so that you can make an informed decision about having eye surgery. Take as much time as you wish to make your decision about signing this informed consent document. You have the right to have all your questions answered before you sign this document. You are welcome to contact Dr Nissirios to answer any questions at any time before or after signing this document.

I understand and agree to the following:

**Nature of the Procedure**

A cataract is an opacity or cloudiness in the natural lens. Cloudiness in the natural lens impairs its ability to focus light, causing blurred vision. Vision can be restored by removing the hazy natural lens and replacing it with a clear artificial lens called an intra-ocular lens (IOL). The surgery is called cataract surgery. Your eye will be numbed and you may also be given sedation through an IV. An incision, or opening, is made in the eye. A tiny vibrating probe is inserted through the incision to break the natural lens up into small pieces. These pieces are gently suctioned out of your eye through the probe. After your natural lens is removed, the IOL is placed inside your eye.

**Potential Benefit**

Removing the cloudy lens may restore crisp, clear vision, allowing you to function better in your normal activities. Except for unusual situations, a cataract surgery is indicated only when you cannot function satisfactorily due to decreased vision caused by the cataract. You may decide not to have a cataract surgery at this time. Cataract surgery will not correct other causes of decreased vision, such as glaucoma, diabetes, or age-related macular degeneration.

## Alternative Treatments

The alternative to cataract surgery now is to do nothing, or delay the surgery. Your vision may get worse over time, but cataract surgery can be done in the future if your vision worsens. In the great majority of patients, no harm comes to the eye from delaying cataract surgery. There is no pressure or urgency in performing cataract surgery now; you may wait until you feel that you are ready.

### Risks, Limitations and Side Effects of Cataract Surgery

Like all surgical procedures, cataract surgery is not absolutely safe. The following paragraphs list possible risks, limitations, and side effects of this procedure.

As a result of the surgery or associated anesthesia, it is possible that your vision could be made worse. In some cases, complications may occur weeks, months or even years later. These and other complications may result in poor vision, total loss of vision, or even loss of the eye in rare situations. Depending upon the type of anesthesia, other risks are possible, including cardiac, stroke or respiratory problems, and, in rare cases, death. Although all of these complications can occur, their incidence following cataract surgery is low.

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 layer of the eye (corneal edema), which may require correction with a corneal transplant; swelling in the central area of the retina (called cystoid macular edema); retained pieces of lens in the eye, which may need to be removed surgically; infection; detachment of the retina (which occurs more commonly if you are highly nearsighted); 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. There may be unknown complications of cataract surgery. Additional surgery may be required to treat these complications.

Complications associated with the IOL may include increased night glare and/or halo, double or ghost images, and slippage of the IOL inside the eye. In some instances, corrective lenses or surgical replacement of the IOL may be necessary for adequate visual function following cataract surgery.

Complications associated with local anesthesia injections around the eye include perforation of the eye, destruction of the eye nerve, interference with the circulation of blood flow in the retina, droopy eyelid, respiratory depression, hypotension, cardiac problems, and in rare situations, brain damage or death. For most patients, the eye can be anesthetized with eye-drops or other solutions without the need for anesthetic injections around the eye.

The selection of the proper IOL, while based upon sophisticated equipment and computer formulas, is not an exact science. After your eye heals, you may be more nearsighted or more farsighted than was intended. Patients who are highly nearsighted or farsighted before surgery have a greater risk that the eye's prescription is different than planned. Patients who have had LASIK or other refractive surgeries are also difficult to predict precisely. Additional surgeries such as IOL exchange, placement of an additional IOL, or vision correction surgery may be needed if you are not satisfied with your vision after cataract surgery. You may need to wear glasses or contact lenses after surgery to obtain your best vision. While cataract surgery has the potential to restore excellent vision, perfect vision is not a realistic expectation since nothing is as good as youthful, healthy eyes. You should be able to resume your normal activities within 2 or 3 days, and your eye will usually be stable within 2 to 6 weeks, at which time glasses or contact lenses can be prescribed if needed.

In rare cases, it may not be possible to implant the IOL you have chosen, or any IOL at all. In this situation, the surgeon will select the best option for you as dictated by the surgical situation, which may be different than your selection prior to surgery. The results of surgery cannot be guaranteed. Additional treatment and/or surgery may be necessary. You may need laser surgery after cataract surgery to correct clouding of vision.

If you have a high degree of hyperopia (farsightedness) and/or your eye is smaller than average, 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. If you have a high degree of myopia (nearsightedness) and/or your eye is larger than average, your risk for a retinal detachment is increased. Retinal detachments can usually be repaired but may lead to vision loss or blindness. Other factors may reduce the visual outcome of cataract surgery, including other eye diseases such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, or your individual healing ability.

Since only one eye will undergo surgery at a time, you may experience a period of imbalance between the two eyes. 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 done one week later.

Off-label use: While all products that we use, including the lens implants, are FDA approved, many possible applications of these lens implants are not specifically FDA approved. These are called "off-label" uses. Implanting an FDA approved lens implant in a patient without significant cataracts is an "off-label" use while implanting the same lens in a patient with significant cataracts is usually an FDA "on-label" indication. Many of the

treatments that we do are off-label. The physician will use the most appropriate treatment for my condition, regardless of its FDA label status.

My vision will be foggy after the procedure and I may be sedated, so I agree not to drive a car until my vision is safe for driving. Postoperative care is important to a good outcome. I agree to attend all recommended aftercare visits. I may be videotaped and/or audiotaped during the procedure. These images and videos will be used for teaching purposes only, and my identity will not be disclosed.

### Concurrent Treatment of Pre-Existing Astigmatism

Astigmatism is a condition where the outer focusing portion of the eye, the cornea, is somewhat oval shaped instead of being round or spherical, resulting in blurring of the vision. Large degrees of astigmatism are usually best treated with special toric IOLs, but mild or moderate astigmatism can often be treated at the time of cataract surgery with a technique called a Limbal Relaxing Incisions ("LRI").

Limbal Relaxing Incision is a surgical procedure which consists of making fine microscopic arcuate (curved) incisions at the limbus, which is the junction of the clear part of the eye (cornea) with the white (sclera) of the eye. These are made with a specialized diamond for the purpose of flattening the steepest part of the cornea in an attempt to obtain a more spherical cornea. LRI permanently changes the shape of the cornea. Although the goal of LRI is to improve vision to the point of not wearing glasses, this result is not guaranteed. LRI is an elective procedure and its only purpose is to sharpen your vision. If you decide not to have LRI, there are other methods of correcting your astigmatism. These alternatives include, among others, eyeglasses, contact lenses, and other refractive surgical procedures such as PRK or LASIK.

While it is not common, I understand that I may experience incapacitating glare or halos from oncoming headlights or other bright light sources, particularly in the evening or nighttime, for a varying length of time or possibly permanently. I am aware that this may interfere with driving for an indefinite period both day and night, and I understand that I am not to drive until I am certain that my vision is adequate both day and night.

I understand that fluctuations or variation in vision may occur during the day during the initial stabilization period (up to three months or longer). As occurs in all surgical procedures, scarring is the result of making incisions in living tissue. This particular surgery is no exception. My eye will be more susceptible to a blow to the eye during the healing phase and possibly somewhat after healing as the microscopic scar tissue may not be as strong as the normal tissue. Protective eyewear is recommended for all contact and racquet sports where a direct blow to the eye could cause permanent injury to the eye.

Additional reported complications include corneal perforation, which could possibly require sutures; incisional inclusions, corneal vascularization, corneal ulcer formation, endothelial cell loss, epithelial healing defects

### **Presbyopia and Alternatives for Near Vision after Surgery**

All people 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 always had good vision without glasses. Presbyopic individuals require bifocals or separate 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.

- **STANDARD, OLDER DESIGN SINGLE-FOCUS IOL AND GLASSES:** You can choose to have a standard, older design, single focus IOL implanted and then be required to wear glasses for most activities including, distance vision, intermediate (computer) vision, and reading vision. This type of lens is not intended to provide freedom from glasses, rather it is simply used as a replacement lens after the cataract is removed. While it is possible to make the eyes different using standard single focus IOLs, with one eye focusing better for near and the other eye better for far (known as “monovision”), this is not as effective as using accommodating IOLs in a similar arrangement.
- **PREMIUM ACCOMMODATING IOL:** The accommodating IOL is designed after a normal, younger human lens, where the focusing muscles of the eye are able to alter the position or shape of the lens, leading to improved ability to focus. These IOLs

provide good distance and intermediate vision, and allow less dependence on glasses for many tasks. There is a variable response to the amount of near focusing ability that the patient will recover after implantation of an accommodating IOL. While some patients may recover good reading near vision, intermediate vision, as well as good distance vision, many patients still require glasses for some near activities. The accommodating IOLs provide the highest quality vision over a very wide range.

- **MONOVISION OPTION WITH PREMIUM ACCOMMODATING IOLs:** To further increase the range of good vision without glasses, the eyes can have different accommodating IOLs implanted so that one eye is more distance dominant and the other is more near dominant. You can choose to have two IOLs with two different powers, with one eye for better near vision, and other eye for better distance vision. This combination of a distance eye and a reading eye is called monovision, and will allow you to read with less dependency on reading glasses. It has been employed quite successfully in many contact lens and refractive surgery patients. However, the imbalance between your eyes may be disturbing. Monovision may result in problems with impaired depth perception or balance between the eyes. Once surgery is performed, it is not always possible to undo what is done, or to reverse the distance and near eye without some loss of visual quality.
- **PREMIUM TORIC IOL:** The Toric IOL is designed for patients who have higher degrees of astigmatism. The Toric IOL can address astigmatism in order to provide sharper vision for the patients with less reliance on glasses. While smaller amounts of astigmatism can be corrected with Limbal Relaxing Incisions (LRI) at the time of surgery with other types of lens implants, larger degrees of astigmatism are often better addressed with Toric IOLs. If astigmatism is left uncorrected, it affects all types of vision, including near vision, intermediate vision, and distance vision, and then glasses would be required for essentially all activities. The Toric IOL is specifically designed to treat astigmatism but it does not give the wider range of vision of accommodating or multi-focal IOLs; even so, it is often the best choice lens designed for patients with larger degrees of astigmatism. If Toric IOLs are implanted in both eyes for distance vision, then reading glasses would need to be used for near vision. Alternatively, one eye can be made better for distance while the other eye is better for near vision (known as “monovision”), thereby reducing the need for glasses.
- **PREMIUM MULTI-FOCAL IOL:** The ophthalmologist can implant a multi-focal IOL. These lenses are “multi-focal,” meaning they correct for both distance vision and other ranges, such as near or intermediate. These multi-focal IOLs do not adjust within the eye like accommodating IOLs, rather the multi-focal IOLs have multiple zones on the lens surface, often like concentric rings. These IOLs provide distance

vision and restore some or all of the near focusing ability of the eye. However, additional prescription glasses may be needed at times to enhance either distance, intermediate or near vision. A multi-focal IOL may allow you to read and see far away without glasses. However, it may reduce your clarity of vision somewhat, and will cause some night glare. While a multi-focal 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 single focus or accommodating lens in conjunction with eyeglasses may be a better choice for you. If complications occur at the time of surgery, a single focus IOL may need to be implanted instead of a multi-focal IOL. If you chose a multi-focal IOL, it is possible that not all of the near (and intermediate) focusing ability of your eye will be restored.

Even if you have chosen an accommodating IOL with monovision or a multi-focal IOL, glasses or contacts may still be required for further improvement in your distance vision, reading vision, or both.

### Patient Consent

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. 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. If my cataract was previously removed, I have been informed that my eye is medically acceptable for IOL implantation.

In signing this informed consent for cataract surgery and/or implantation of an IOL, I am stating that I have read this informed consent (or it has been read to me), and I fully understand it and the nature and possible complications of a cataract surgery and/or implantation of an IOL. Furthermore, I have had all of my questions answered to my satisfaction.

Choose only one of these options by initialing it, and then cross out the others:

#### 1) Standard Single Focus IOL / Glasses Option

I wish to have a cataract surgery with a standard single focus, older design IOL and I will then need to wear glasses in order to provide sharp vision for many or most activities, on:

My RIGHT EYE / LEFT EYE << circle one and initial here: \_\_\_\_\_

**2) Aspheric (for Optimal Night Vision) Single Focus IOL / Glasses Option**

I wish to have a cataract surgery with a aspheric single focus design IOL and I will then need to wear glasses in order to provide sharp vision for some activities, on:

My RIGHT EYE / LEFT EYE << circle one and initial here: \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Premium Accommodating IOL Option (Crystalens AO or Crystalens)**

I wish to have a cataract surgery with the premium accommodating IOLs implanted, with the goal of having good vision without glasses at many, but not all distances, on:

My RIGHT EYE / LEFT EYE << circle one and initial here: \_\_\_\_\_

**4) Premium Toric IOL Option (fix Astigmatism)**

I wish to have a cataract surgery with the premium Toric IOL implanted in order to address much of my pre-existing astigmatism. The goal is to have good vision without glasses for some activities, but I will likely be required to use glasses for others, such as reading on:

My RIGHT EYE / LEFT EYE << circle one and initial here: \_\_\_\_\_

**5) Premium Multi-focal IOL Option (Alcon ReSTOR or AMO Tecnis Multi-Focal)**

I wish to have a cataract surgery with a premium multi-focal IOL implant in order to decrease my dependency on reading glasses on:

My RIGHT EYE / LEFT EYE << circle one and initial here: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission to Dr. Nicholas Nissirios to perform a cataract surgery, limbal relaxing incisions, and/or implantation of an IOL as indicated above:

Patient's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness' Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please feel free to ask Dr Nissirios any and all questions that you have prior to surgery. He can be reached via email or his cell phone.