

# Consent for Enhancement of Previous LASIK Surgery

## INTRODUCTION

This information is offered to assist you in making an informed decision about having **LASIK enhancement** for the purpose of vision correction. In LASIK, a microkeratome is used to create a thin flap of outer corneal tissue, which is opened like the cover of a book. Next, the excimer laser is used to optically 'sculpt' the underlying corneal tissue, reshaping it and thereby reducing or eliminating the refractive error. The flap is then returned to its original position, without sutures. In LASIK enhancement, the original flap is identified and lifted, and additional laser treatment is then rendered to the underlying tissue.

LASIK enhancement is an elective procedure. The choice whether to have this or not is completely up to you. Enhancement of LASIK, like any surgery, presents some risks, which are outlined here. You should understand that there may be other risks not known to your doctor which may become known later. Despite the best of care, complications and side-effects may occur; should this happen in your case, the visual result might be affected, even to the extent of making your vision worse.

## PATIENT CONSENT

In giving my permission for enhancement of my prior LASIK surgery, I understand that Dr. Nissirios will use microsurgical instruments to raise the flap created at my initial LASIK, and the underlying corneal tissue will be treated with an excimer laser programmed to correct my remaining refractive error. I have received no guarantee as to the success of this procedure in my particular case. I understand that the following risks are associated with the procedure:

## VISION THREATENING COMPLICATIONS

1. On extremely rare occasions the flap can heal imperfectly, due to inflammation or wrinkling, and such irregular healing could result in visual distortion. This might mean that my best vision after LASIK enhancement might not be as clear or sharp as it was before the enhancement, and may warrant further intervention.
2. I understand that other very rare complications threatening vision can occur, including but not limited to severe infection, and that such complications could conceivably lead to scarring, corneal thinning, corneal distortion, blindness or loss of the eye.

## NON-VISION-THREATENING SIDE EFFECTS

1. Imperfect overcorrection can occur even with carefully performed enhancement surgery.
2. The correction which I can expect to gain from LASIK enhancement may or may not be perfect. It is not realistic to expect that this procedure will result in perfect vision, at all times, under all circumstances, for the rest of my life. I understand I may need glasses to refine my vision for some purposes requiring fine detailed vision after some point in my life, and that this might occur soon after surgery or years later. "Refractive drift" describes the slow change in correction required for optimum vision over time, due to growth of the eye and other factors, which can cause one's prescription to change slightly from year to year. Since refractive drift is known to occur before LASIK or other corrective surgery, it should be anticipated that this will occur after such surgery as well.
3. Temporary glasses either for distance or reading may be necessary while healing occurs, and more than one pair of glasses may be needed.
4. I may notice some pain or foreign body sensation, particularly during the first 24 hours after surgery.
5. The long-term effects of LASIK and enhancement beyond ten years presently are unknown. Unforeseen complications or side effects could occur.
6. I will be offered a mild sedative in preparation for enhancement. I understand I must not drive after LASIK enhancement until at least the next morning, and in any case not until I feel my vision is adequate for safe driving.
7. I understand that if I currently need reading glasses, I will still likely need reading glasses after this treatment. If before enhancement my intermediate and/or near vision is reasonably clear, and if the enhancement intends to perfect my distance vision, it is possible that the intermediate and/or reading vision may be worse after treatment than it is now. This may create or increase my dependence on reading glasses or may mean that reading glasses may be required at an earlier age if I have enhancement. If I choose "monovision" (correcting one eye for distance and one for near) I may experience some visual imbalance, and some impairment of depth perception.

8. Even 90% clarity of vision is still slightly blurry. Enhancement surgeries can be performed when vision is stable unless it is unwise or unsafe. Enhancements are generally performed 10 weeks or more after the first surgery. The original flap can usually be lifted, eliminating risks associated with repeat microkeratome use. Rarely, a new flap is required, incurring slightly greater risk. In order to perform an enhancement surgery, there must be adequate tissue remaining. Dr. Devgan will assess the benefits and risks of enhancement surgery if appropriate, and will discuss these matters with you.
9. With any surgery, there is a possibility of complications due to anesthesia, drug reactions, or other factors. Since it is impossible to state every complication that may occur as a result of any surgery, the list of complications in this form may not be complete.

**PATIENT'S STATEMENT OF ACCEPTANCE AND UNDERSTANDING**

Information about LASIK enhancement has been presented to me in detail in this document and elsewhere, and has been explained to me by Dr. Nissirios. All my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I desire and voluntarily consent to LASIK surgery on:

\_\_\_\_\_Right Eye      \_\_\_\_\_Left Eye      \_\_\_\_\_Both Eyes

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Signature                                      Date                                      Witness                                      Date