



**CONSENT FOR FEMTOSECOND LASER ASSISTED CATARACT SURGERY OR ASTIGMATISM TREATMENT**

The femtosecond laser takes several critical steps of cataract surgery normally performed manually with a blade, and automates those steps. Use of the laser will increase the time needed for surgery, and your procedure will be performed in two different rooms.

**ANTICIPATED BENEFITS OF FEMTOSECOND LASER SURGERY**

1. Ability to make more precise and consistent incisions in the cornea
2. A more circular and centered capsulotomy
3. Pre-soften the cataract so that less ultrasound energy is necessary
4. Surgical correction of astigmatism consisting of arcuate incision(s) made with the femtosecond laser. The shape, placement and size of incision(s) made with a laser may be more precise.

**RISKS & COMPLICATIONS OF FEMTOSECOND LASER SURGERY**

1. Complications may include, but are not limited to:
  - Decentration of corneal or capsulotomy incisions
  - Incomplete or interrupted capsulotomy, fragmentation, or corneal incision procedure
  - Anterior capsular tear
  - Posterior capsular tear with lens/lens fragment dislocation into the vitreous; a separate procedure called a vitrectomy may be necessary to remove the vitreous and lens fragments
  - Corneal abrasion or defect
  - Pain
  - Anterior chamber fluid leakage
  - Damage to intraocular structures
  - Infection
  - Anterior chamber collapse
  - Increased eye pressure
  - Bleeding
2. Interrupted or incomplete procedure; the surgeon may elect to repeat the laser portion or complete the procedure through traditional surgery

**All of these possible complications may occur with non-laser assisted cataract surgery.**

**ALTERNATIVES**

Patients with astigmatism have several choices for the reduction of astigmatism. Nonsurgical options for astigmatism correction include glasses and contact lenses. Surgical correction of astigmatism can be achieved through toric intraocular lens, a limbal relaxing incision (LRI) made manually with a blade, or an arcuate incision made with the femtosecond laser (AK). Refractive surgery such as LASIK or PRK can also treat astigmatism. The shape and size of incisions made with the laser may be more precise. **Insurances do not pay for surgical correction of astigmatism.**

I understand that it is impossible for the doctor to inform me of every possible complication that may occur. By signing below, I agree that I have been offered a copy of this consent form, and that I understand and accept the possible risks, benefits, complications and alternatives of cataract surgery with a femtosecond laser.

Signature of patient/Responsible Party \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name of Responsible Party \_\_\_\_\_

Patient's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_