# DR. ANDREW PERROTT

Ophthalmologist – Eye Specialist M.B.Ch.B(UCT) FC Ophth (SA)

Suite 108, Vincent Pallotti Medical Centre, Alexandra Road, Pinelands, 7405
Tel: 021 531 4317 Fax: 021 531 4318 Cell: 082 788 5766 e-mail: docperrott@mweb.co.za
Practice no. 026000 0047376

# **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.

- h) Inflammation. Mild inflammation can occur around specks of tear film debris or more widely in the interface. This is known as Diffuse Lamellar Keratitis (DLK). It usually resolves in about a week with treatment.
- i) Other risks. Other reported complications include: ptosis (droopy eyelid), contact lens intolerance, endothelial cell loss (loss of cell density in the inner layer of cornea resulting in swelling), retinal detachment and bleeding. Some complications may require partial (lamellar) or full thickness corneal transplant using donor cornea such as loss of corneal disc, corneal scarring and progressive corneal thinning (ectasia). There are also potential complications due to the anaesthetics or other medication used. It is also possible that the microkeratome or the laser can malfunction and the procedure may have to be stopped.
- 2. Vision Threatening Complications. It is possible that there could be loss of some or all useful vision as a result of the following:
  - a) Infection that cannot be controlled by antibiotics or other means.
  - b) Inflammation in the interface, the area between the flap and base of the corneal. In very rare cases this can be severe enough to cause haze or scarring and permanent reduction of best-corrected vision varying from slight blur to significant haze.
  - c) Irregular healing of the cornea could result in distorted corneal shape and distorted vision or ghosting which may not be correctable by glasses, contact lenses or re treatment.

**Contra-indications.** If you know that you have any of these conditions, you should inform your surgeon and discuss the issues before considering LASIK surgery, as the treatment should not be performed on persons:

- With autoimmune disease and HIV
- Who are immune-compromised or on drugs which suppress the immune system or alter healing eg. Cortisone, steroids, roacutane.
- Who are pregnant, nursing or expecting to become pregnant within 6 months of LASIK procedure
- Who have keratoconus (steeping of the cornea)
- With uncontrolled vascular disease.

#### **Alternatives to LASIK**

LASIK is purely an elective procedure and you may not decide to have this procedure at all. The alternatives are:

- Spectacles
- Contact lenses
- Other surgical procedures such as lens surgery, intra-ocular contact lenses, etc.

#### **Patient Consent**

- i. In signing this form I confirm that I have read this Informed Consent Form. The LASIK procedure has been explained to me in terms that I understand.
- ii. I have been given the opportunity to discuss the document and ask questions regarding the procedure and any alternative therapies. All my questions have been answered to my full satisfaction.
- iii. I understand that to obtain my desired visual result further alternative treatment/s may be required as part of a staged procedure. I understand that any additional procedure will only be carried out if it is necessary and in my best interests and can be justified for medical reasons.
- iv. I have been informed of the realistic benefits and possible complications associated with LASIK and understand that no guarantee of a particular outcome was given.
- v. I understand that having refractive surgery does not necessarily mean total freedom from spectacles, and there is a good chance I will have to wear spectacle correction for perfect focus in the future. It is hoped that LASIK will reduce or possibly eliminate my dependency on glasses or contact lenses.
- vi. My decision to undergo this procedure has been my own and has been made without duress or inducement of any kind.

i consent to have lasik surge	ry performed on my right / left / both e	yes.	
PATIENT SIGNATURE	PATIENT NAME (Capitals)	DATE	
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DR AM PERROTT		DATE	